09-13-00

A

EL590678468US

PTO/SB/05 (2/98)
Approved for use through 09/30/2000. OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → [+]

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	PA1631
First Inventor or Application Identifier	David Goerz, Jr.
Title	Method and Apparatus for Business to . . .
Express Mail Label No.	EL590678468US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231

1. [X] * Fee Transmittal Form *(e.g., PTO/SB/17)* *(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)*
2. [X] Specification [Total Pages [ ]] *(preferred arrangement set forth below)*
   - Descriptive title of the Invention
   - Cross References to Related Applications
   - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
   - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
   - Background of the Invention
   - Brief Summary of the Invention
   - Brief Description of the Drawings *(if filed)*
   - Detailed Description
   - Claim(s)
   - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. [X] Drawing(s) *(35 U.S.C. 113)* [Total Sheets [55]]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages [44]]
   a. [X] Newly executed (original or copy)
   b. [ ] Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d)) *(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)* ***[Note Box 5 below]***
      i. [ ] DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. [ ] Incorporation By Reference *(useable if Box 4b is checked)* The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered to be part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
6. [ ] Microfiche Computer Program *(Appendix)*
7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission *(if applicable, all necessary)*
   a. [ ] Computer Readable Copy
   b. [ ] Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
   c. [ ] Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

8. [ ] Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
9. [ ] 37 C.F.R.§3.73(b) Statement *(when there is an assignee)* [ ] Power of Attorney
10. [ ] English Translation Document *(if applicable)*
11. [ ] Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 [ ] Copies of IDS Citations
12. [X] Preliminary Amendment
13. [X] Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) *(Should be specifically itemized)*
14. [ ] * Small Entity Statement(s) *(PTO/SB/09-12)* [ ] Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired
15. [ ] Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) *(if foreign priority is claimed)*
16. [ ] Other: .....

NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 14: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.28).

17. **If a CONTINUING APPLICATION,** *check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:*
    [ ] Continuation [ ] Divisional [ ] Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: _____/_____
    Prior application information: Examiner _____ *Group / Art Unit:* _____

18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

[X] *Customer Number or Bar Code Label* *(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)* or [X] *Correspondence address below*

Name	22830 PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE				
Address	CARR & FERRELL, LLP				
	2225 East Bayshore Road, Suite 200				
City	Palo Alto	State	California	Zip Code	94303
Country	USA	Telephone	650-812-3400	Fax	650-812-3444

Name (Print/Type)	Mary A. Wiggins	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	45480
Signature	Mary A. Wiggins	Date	9/12/00

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

PTO/SB/17 (12/99)
Approved for use through 09/30/2000. OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2000

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.
Small Entity payments must be supported by a small entity statement, otherwise large entity fees must be paid. See Forms PTO/SB/09-12.
See 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.27 and 1.28.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ($) 423

Complete if Known	
Application Number	N/A
Filing Date	September 12, 2000
First Named Inventor	David Goerz, Jr.
Examiner Name	N/A
Group / Art Unit	N/A
Attorney Docket No.	PA 1631

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)

1. [X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to:

Deposit Account Number: 6-0600

Deposit Account Name: Carr & Ferrell, LLP

[X] Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17

2. [X] Payment Enclosed: [X] Check [ ] Money Order [ ] Other

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code	Large Entity Fee ($)	Small Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee ($)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101	690	201	345	Utility filing fee	$ 345
106	310	206	155	Design filing fee	$ 0
107	480	207	240	Plant filing fee	$ 0
108	690	208	345	Reissue filing fee	$ 0
114	150	214	75	Provisional filing fee	$ 0

SUBTOTAL (1) ($) 345

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

	Extra Claims		Fee from below		Fee Paid
Total Claims 18	-20** = 0	X	$ 0	=	$ 0
Independent Claims 5	- 3** = 2	X	$ 39	=	$ 78
Multiple Dependent			$ 0	=	$ 0

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see below

Large Entity Fee Code	Large Entity Fee ($)	Small Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee ($)	Fee Description
103	18	203	9	Claims in excess of 20
102	78	202	39	Independent claims in excess of 3
104	260	204	130	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
109	78	209	39	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
110	18	210	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) ($) 78

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code	Large Entity Fee ($)	Small Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee ($)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105	130	205	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	$ 0
127	50	227	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet.	$ 0
139	130	139	130	Non-English specification	$ 0
147	2,520	147	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	$ 0
112	920*	112	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	$ 0
113	1,840*	113	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	$ 0
115	110	215	55	Extension for reply within first month	$ 0
116	380	216	190	Extension for reply within second month	$ 0
117	870	217	435	Extension for reply within third month	$ 0
118	1,360	218	680	Extension for reply within fourth month	$ 0
128	1,850	228	925	Extension for reply within fifth month	$ 0
119	300	219	150	Notice of Appeal	$ 0
120	300	220	150	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	$ 0
121	260	221	130	Request for oral hearing	$ 0
138	1,510	138	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	$ 0
140	110	240	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	$ 0
141	1,210	241	605	Petition to revive - unintentional	$ 0
142	1,210	242	605	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	$ 0
143	430	243	215	Design issue fee	$ 0
144	580	244	290	Plant issue fee	$ 0
122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	$ 0
123	50	123	50	Petitions related to provisional applications	$ 0
126	240	126	240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	$ 0
581	40	581	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	$ 0
146	690	246	345	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	$ 0
149	690	249	345	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	$ 0
Other fee (specify)					$ 0
Other fee (specify)					$ 0

* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) ($) 0

SUBMITTED BY

Complete (if applicable)

Name (Print/Type)	Mary Wiggins	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	45,480	Telephone	(650) 812 - 3400
Signature	Mary Wiggins			Date	9/12/00

WARNING:

Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Atty. Dkt.No. PA1631US

Applicants or Patentees: David J. Goerz, Jr. and Cordell William Hull
Serial or Patent No.: Unknown
Filed or Issued:
For: **Method and Apparatus for Business to Business Project Development with Indexed Knowledge Base**

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING
SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9 (f) and 1.27 (c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I hereby declare that I am:

[x] the owner of the small business concern identified below:
[ ] an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN Infrastructureworld.com
ADDRESS OF CONCERN 400 Oyster Point Blvd., Suite 112
South San Francisco, CA 94080

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.2, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9 (d), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled " Dissipative Ceramic Bonding Tip", by inventors described in

[x] the specification filed herewith.
[ ] application serial no._____, filed _____.
[ ] patent no._____, issued _____.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights in the invention is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e). *NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

[ ] INDIVIDUAL [ ] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN [ ] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28 (b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of the Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Philip J. Luks

TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER Vice President

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 400 Oyster Point Blvd., Suite 112, South San Francisco, California 94080

SIGNATURE Philip J. Luks DATE 9/12/2000

Method and Apparatus for Business to Business Project Development With Indexed Knowledge Base

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Technical Field

The present invention relates generally to an Internet Website, and more specifically to an Internet Website with an indexed and searchable database.

Discussion of the Prior Art

The Internet is a super network linking computer and server resources around the world, thereby allowing people to communicate and share information. Generally, this information is assembled and accessible on Websites identified with a specific Internet address. More Websites are introduced to the Internet everyday. These Websites include information covering a wide range of interests, topic, and needs. Accordingly, to be useful, users need tools to sort through this wide range of information, directing their visits to these Websites to those containing specific information.

Internet search engines such as Yahoo™, Google™, Excite™, and Lycos™, among others, allow users to search for specific information, service, or resource. Typically, these Internet search engines are

Websites that include an entry Web page with a form field to accept search term, and are referred to as "browsers." Typical browsers receive a "keyword" or "keywords" descriptive of the interest, topic, or need for which a user is seeking information or services. The browser's associated Website includes a database of URLs and URL information allowing it to search for any incident of the keyword(s), ultimately returning a list of URLs or Websites that may fulfill the user's needs. From here, the user must wade through the list of Websites, visiting each to determine which, if any, contain the desired information. Some browsers assist users by running various ranking algorithms, organizing Websites in a likely order of relevance. However, these browser Websites generally make no attempt to analyze the Website's actual content.

Also, most browsers make no attempt to discriminate between the needs of different types of users. For example, none of the above listed browsers discriminate between individual users and business user. The type of information sought by a project oriented business user is likely to be different from the type of information sought by an individual.

Further, the Internet is an increasingly important tool for businesses to promote their products and services. Likewise, the Internet is an increasingly important resource for business customers/users to find business resources. Business users need focused information in a fast and effective manner. A typical business user accesses the Internet to assemble project resources. A typical

business project may require accessing many different types of resources including, but not limited to, materials, construction, financing, government codes and restrictions, regional information, country information, industry sector information, and other project specific supporting services. The present method of assembling such a grouping of information, services, and resources is to use a traditional browser and search for information as needed on a resource by resource basis, cull through the list of URLs or Websites the browser identified, manually narrowing the search down to a useful set of resources. The problem with this method is that it is time consuming, frustrating, and wasteful. Business users often become frustrated with long lists of inapplicable Websites, giving up on their search after find one or two applicable Website resources. Giving up early is a problem because by accepting the first one or two applicable Website resources, a user may miss the "best" Website resources. Another problem with this method of searching is that project oriented business users are limited to locating only one category of resource at a time. It would be more efficient, cost effective, and convenient if a project oriented business user could access multiple project-oriented resources by running only one search.

The prior art includes such Internet resources as the resource located at www.ipanet.com. The ipanet.com Website recognizes that business users have needs that may be different from the individual user, and provides resources including investment links, an events

calendar, a document catalog, news sources and certain business summaries, generally directed to assisting business users. Although an improvement for business users, ipanet.com does not address the need for a project-oriented approach providing URL and other Internet resources to accomplish tasks at each phase of a project. The goal of ipanet.com appears to be providing information about particular business-to-business resources focused on investments. The ipanet.com Website does not address the need for business-to-business users to assemble an entire project online and in a secure environment.

Another prior art method includes the invention described in U.S. Patent No. 6,098,066, entitled Method and Apparatus for Searching for Documents Stored within a Document Directory Hierarchy. This invention addresses the need for efficiently storing and sorting information for rapid retrieval in a basic tree hierarchy. However, because the search categories themselves are linked to the directory structure, this invention does not address the need for connecting business users to Internet accessible business-to-business resources by locating URLs providing resource links.

Accordingly, the prior art does not address a business user's need for a project search tool that provides resources addressing multiple aspects of a project after running only one search.

Also, the prior art does not address the business user's need for providing online tools allowing online assembly of all of the resources needed to complete a business project.

Further, the prior art does not address the need for business-to-business users to assemble an entire project online and in a secure environment.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention sets forth a method and a system for a project development Website wherein a user can select between categories to concurrently search multiple aspects of a project, thereby locating project directed resources related to the multiple aspects. The multiple aspects of the project may be pre-selected Uniform Resource Locators (URLs), for example. The project development Website may include a multi-dimensional knowledge base defined by the categories. The multi-dimensional knowledge base may be a database indexed according to the categories and having a plurality of nodes, each node being a URL. The categories maybe Life Cycle, Operating Region, Operating Country, Industry Sector, and Supporting Services, for example. The Life Cycle category may include project phases for determining a project's progress. The project directed resources may be located using the project's phase as selection criteria. The project

development Website may include a user key for entering the Website, which may function as a user password.

The project development Website may contain a multi-dimensional knowledge base for navigating through pre-defined categories to locate the project directed resources identified. The multi-dimensional knowledge base may be an indexed database and having multiple entry points. The pre-defined categories may also include multiple entry points. Each of the pre-defined categories may also include sub-categories for navigating through said multi-dimensional knowledge base to locate the project directed resources. Each project directed resources may be a URL.

An Internet appliance may be used to initiate a navigated search of an indexed knowledge base and may be used for selecting one of the super categories, searching the indexed knowledge base. The group of pertinent URLs may be displayed on the Internet appliance. A project phase may be used to limit the navigated search of the indexed knowledge base to only those URL's whose associated Website provides information, data, or services applicable to the project phase.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a schematic block diagram of a system in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figures 2 and 2A are overviews of a system in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figures 3 and 3A are overviews of a system in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 4 is a overview of a system in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 5 is a overview of an embodiment of an Indexed Knowledge Base in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 6 is an overview of a Super Category in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 7 is an overview of a Super Category in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 8 is an overview of a Super Category in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 9 is an overview of a Super Category in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 10 is a flow chart in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 11 is a flow chart in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 12 is an overview of a transaction in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 13 is shows a data vault for use in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 14 is shows a data vault for use in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 15 is an overview of a transaction in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 16 is an example of co-branding in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 17 is a screen shot of an overview of a Website constructed in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figures 18A-M are screen shots of display screens of a feature implemented in an embodiment of the present invention; and

Figures 19A-W are screen shots of display screens of a feature implemented in an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figure 1 schematically illustrates a project development system 100 in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The project development system 100 includes a server 2, server central processing unit (CPU) 4, and server memory 6, where the server CPU 4 is for executing instructions in the server, and the server memory 6 is for storing and providing access to information, including but not limited to the Website 8. The server could be one of any of the plethora of servers

known in the art capable of containing a CPU and suitable memory device(s) for housing an Internet Website, such as Website 8 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

The project development system 100 also includes multiple customers/users 15A-n each having an Internet appliance 16A-n. The Internet appliance including an appliance CPU 18A-n, and an appliance memory 20A-n, where the appliance CPU could be any CPU capable of executing requested instructions, and the appliance memory could be any memory or memory device capable of providing an area for storing and retrieving information within the Internet appliance. The Internet appliance 16A-n could be any Internet appliance for interacting with an Internet Website, including but not limited to a computer, a laptop computer, a client server, a Palm Pilot™, an Internet terminal, an Internet kiosk, or the like.

An Internet appliance 16A-n may have direct access to server 2, or may have access to server 2 through the World Wide Web/Internet 10. For Internet appliances with no direct access to server 2, the project development system 100 further includes a communication interface 14 connecting the Internet appliance(s) 16A-n to a network interconnection 12, thereby providing access to the Internet 10. The communications interface 14 could be any interface known in the art including but not limited to a modem, an ISDN connection, a T1 line, a T3 line, a satellite link, a direct cable connection, or the like. The network interconnection

12 could be any network interconnection connecting the Internet appliance(s) 16A-n to the Internet 10, including but not limited to services such as Compuserve™, Earth Link™, America Online™, or any other service provider connecting a customer/user's Internet appliance to the Internet through a backbone telecommunications network. Ultimately, the project development system 100 allows Website 8 to link a customer/user's Internet appliance 16A-n to specially selected Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) 22 residing on other servers accessed over the Internet, where each URL is an Internet address to another Website.

Fig. 2 is a Website overview showing system 200, which is constructed in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, Internet appliance(s) 16A-n sends an instruction 24 to initiate a search of indexed knowledge base 38. Instruction 24 can be processed in at least two ways. First, instruction 24 can be processed as a request to navigate 26 through the knowledge base. When instruction 24 is processed as a request to navigate 26, the customer/user 15A-n is launched into screen 28, which displays a group of predetermined navigable super categories. The super categories are entry points into the indexed knowledge base 38.

A super category is a pre-determined category selected according to certain criteria that approximates the information a certain type of customer/user may need. Such a super category could be determined by creating a well thought through market place directory, similar in idea to

the yellow pages. In this case, a super category may include sub-categories and resources likely to fulfill the needs of a customer/user who initiates a search under a specific super category heading. As an illustrative example, super categories may include, but are not limited to, Operating Region 30, Operating Country 32, Industry Sector 34, Supporting Services 36, or Project Life Cycle 37. An advantage of navigating through a super category is that the sub-categories under that super category and the URL resources associated with that super category are well defined and conveniently sorted. In this way, the customer/user 15A-n is directed to a shorter list of the most pertinent resources.

Alternatively, in one embodiment of the invention, instruction 24 may be a request to do a keyword search 42. In this case, the request is processed as a traditional non-directed word search. While such a non-directed keyword search is less efficient than a navigated super category search, it allows the customer/user to create a search not otherwise defined in the pre-defined super categories, and is efficient in that it is limited to searching the specially selected URLs included in the indexed knowledge base 38, rather than the entire universe of URLs available on the Internet.

In one embodiment of the invention, either a request to navigate 26 or a request to do a keyword search 42 will initiate a search of the indexed knowledge base 38. The indexed knowledge base is a multi-

dimensional matrix of information, which is the core of Website 8 and is linked to tens of thousands of URLs. The result of such a search is a group of pertinent URLs 40. From this group of pertinent URLs, a customer/user 15A-n could select a URL and go to the Internet Website associated with that URL. The URLs in the group of pertinent URLs may include attributes such as an email address, which may be used for business-to-business transactions.

In a further embodiment, when using a keyword search a directory string may be created and used to direct an Internet search on a traditional Internet web browser such as Yahoo™, Google™, Excite™, Lycos™, or the like, thereby returning a group of pertinent URLs 40 that may include URLs not otherwise in indexed knowledge base 38. Likewise, a search string could be delivered to a meta search engine such as Surfwax™, where a keyword search for a word or phrase could be made across any number of known Internet search engines, including but not limited to the above listed Internet web browsers.

Once a browser is selected for performing a keyword search, one skilled in the art would be familiar with a variety of search tools for improving a browser's natural language search abilities. Here, natural language is any language spoken by humans, as opposed to, for example, a programming or machine language. A natural language search may begin with a word or phrase describing the general nature of the information the customer/user 15A-n seeks. An extension of a natural

language search could be a "fuzzy" search, which will locate Websites having information including words or phrases that are similar to the keyword(s). One skilled in the art would be familiar with techniques for accomplishing a fuzzy word search.

Search results may be refined using relevance ranking software, which ranks the relevance of each identified Website in a group of pertinent Websites 40. Relevance ranking software is well known in the art. Examples of browsers using relevance ranking software include, but are not limited to the above listed browsers. Also, known features such as Website summaries may be used to provide a snapshot of the information available on any Websites in the group of pertinent Websites 40. A snapshot summary is a short summary that may include the first several sentences of a Website's homepage, a sorted selection of words from a Website's collective pages, a specially edited statement, or the like. Most browsers, including those listed above, implement snapshot style summaries. For example, a customer/user may use this snapshot information to perform top level filtering of Websites in the group of pertinent Websites.

Further features may be used to augment a browser's performance while executing a keyword search. For example, meta browsers such as Surfwax™ may provide a customer/user 15A-n with pattern-analysis technology incorporating algorithms for identifying customer/user use patterns. Pattern-analysis may be used to personalize a search thereby

better analyzing customer/user needs and/or automatically assisting in appropriately narrowing a search. Also, browsers may provide customer/users with central server space for saving, storing, and sharing information. This type of space may be used, among other purposes, for storing selected Website documents in a personalized format, and/or for allowing customers/users to assign different documents different levels of security. Differing security assignments may allow customers/users to control who shares which documents/information. This type of storage feature is available, for example, on Surfwax™ when using the InfoCubby™ feature. Similarly, other augmenting tools may include, but are not limited to, a scalable information indexer such as SurfWalker™, available on Surfwax™, for processing Website information according to a user's preferences. Also available on Surfwax™ is SurfParker™, which is a tool that automatically adds, indexes, and includes new knowledge in a natural language searchable database.

Additional search strategies that may be employed in an embodiment of the invention include, but are not limited to accessing and searching Internet sites that return information with no URL addresses, such as information from the Internet "yellow pages."

In one embodiment of the invention, URLs are included in the indexed knowledge base 38 after being reviewed by an editor. Editors determine which URLs and associated Websites include content appropriate for inclusion in the knowledge base. This review selection

criterion eliminates irrelevant URLs that may contain keywords, but whose content is inappropriate or otherwise wrong for inclusion in indexed knowledge base 38. Other processes for selecting the indexed knowledge base's URLs may include a logical word search according to the selected super category and sub-category, a customer/user rating of URLs, or any combination thereof.

Each URL 22 included in the indexed knowledge base 38 is referred to as an "asset," has specific attributes, and may contain information germane to a customer/user's interests, may direct a customer/user to a resource or service he or she may need for assembling/completing a project, or may be such a service itself.

In one embodiment of the invention, each URL 22 included in indexed knowledge base 38 is called a "node." Each node is a location within the knowledge base and may be arrived at from any one of several searches. For example, the same URL may be included in the group of pertinent URLs where the search starts from either the super category of Operating Region 30 or Operating Country 32. Such an example is the URL associated with the Website for Standard General Bank, which is a bank having branches in several countries but whose home base is in the United Kingdom. In that case, a search including information related to financial institutions would return the URL for Standard General Bank for a first search under the super category of Operating Region, where the operating region was the United Kingdom. Similarly, a second search

under Operating Country would return the same URL, where the operating country was a country having a Standard General Bank branch office. A URL's attributes are its properties or characteristics and could include such things as its name, industry specific information, country information, regional information, supporting services information, printer information, customer/user account information, password information, Internet accessible information, or the like.

In one embodiment, the URLs included in the indexed knowledge base are permanent nodes in that they may not be dynamically removed without editor intervention. Also, editors update and add URLs to the knowledge base. A customer/user's Internet appliance 16A-n may contain information in memory 20A-n including a partial or the entirety list of the URLs in the indexed knowledge base 38. In such a case, the information on the customer/user's Internet appliance may be updated each time he or she logs onto Website 8, where the update reflects any changes in the indexed knowledge base's contents.

As an illustrative example of using an embodiment of the invention described in Fig. 2, a navigable search identifying a specific super category such as Industry Sector 34 may direct a customer/user 15A-n to a group of pertinent URLs 40, which include URL 22. Similarly, a keyword search for a word(s) used in a particular industry may direct a customer/user to a different group of pertinent URLs that also include the same URL 22. The difference in search modes is that the navigation

process directs the search according to super categories and sub-categories that have been pre-selected, analyzed, and grouped at the Website's server 2. By applying these selection criteria, the number of relevant URLs in any group of pertinent URLs 40 is reduced to a shortened list, thereby minimizing the time and effort customers/users 15A-n need to put into researching and analyzing information and resources. Conversely, keyword searches generally produce larger groups of potentially pertinent URLs, requiring the customer/user to spend more time researching and analyzing the individual URLs than if they had performed a search by super category navigation.

In one embodiment, after performing a navigable or a keyword search, a group of pertinent URLs 40 is returned. The group of pertinent URLs may be further narrowed by performing an additional keyword search using the group of pertinent URLs as the population of URLs to narrow from.

In one embodiment of the invention, a customer/user 15A-n must have a "key" to access Website 8. A key may be an identifier for identifying that customer/user to his or her account on Website 8. Such a key may include, but is not limited to, a name, a string of numbers, a specific sequence, a code, a credit card number, a social security number, any combination thereof, or the like. Also, a key may be implemented for restricting a customer/user's Website 8 access to less than all of the pages, resources, information, or the like on the Website.

Fig. 2A is a Website overview showing an alternate embodiment of system 200. In this embodiment of system 200, a customer/user 15A-n may elect a route to navigate through knowledge base 26 as above described. In doing so, he or she may select any of the proffered navigable super categories displayed on a screen 28. Alternatively, the customer/user may choose to perform a keyword search 42. In this embodiment, a keyword search may be made after navigating through the super category of Project Life Cycle 37. In its broadest terms, a Project Life Cycle is a comprehensive management system for managing the process of completing a project. A Project Life Cycle has different phases, each requiring a different set of resources. Instituting a Project Life Cycle phase before a keyword search ensures that the URLs returned in the group of pertinent URLs 40 will be relevant to the project and to the specified phase of the project.

Fig. 3 describes an embodiment wherein instruction 24 initiates a search of the knowledge base, and request 26 subsequently requests a navigated search of the knowledge base. Here, the customer/user 15A-n is presented with a list of predetermined navigable super categories 28. After selecting a category, the customer/user narrows a search by drilling down through that super category arriving at specific URLs 22. These specific URLs are then included in the group of pertinent URLs 40.

In one embodiment of the invention, the group of pertinent URLs is continuously updated when new and pertinent URLs are added to

indexed knowledge base 38. A customer/user may use this group of pertinent URLs as a connection to the business-to-business marketplace, launching directly to one of the listed URL's Websites, or may engage in a business-to-business transaction by communicating via email where one of the attributes of a listed URL is an email address. Similarly, URLs connected to corporate or business Websites may be linked to that business in such a way that transactions may be processed directly and in real-time.

Fig. 3 further shows that in a navigated search, regardless of the selected super category, the same URL 22 may be identified and included in the group of pertinent URLs 40.

Fig. 3A is an alternate embodiment of the system depicted in Fig. 3, and described above. The system of Fig. 3A differs from that of Fig. 3 in that the resulting group of pertinent URLs from a navigated search of a super category selected from screen 28 are further refined by processing them through Project Life Cycle 37. In this way, the group of pertinent URLs 40 is project specific in both Project Life Cycle phase and selected super category.

Figure 4 describes an embodiment where instruction 24 initiates a search of the indexed knowledge base, and navigation step 26 subsequently initiates a navigated search of the knowledge base that is first directed to Life Cycle module 44. Life Cycle module 44 contains a specialized super category process, Project Life Cycle 37. Project Life

Cycle 37 maybe processed in either a linear or parallel fashion, and is conducted in phases. For example, Phase 0, 48A, could be a concept phase, Phase 1, 48B, could be a feasibility phase, Phase 2, 48C, could be a definitive planning phase, Phase 3, 48D, could be a project structuring phase, and so on. In such an arrangement, URLs may be eliminated, or conversely included, in any subsequent search of the indexed knowledge base. This phase limiting of available knowledge base URLs creates a phase limited knowledge base 50, thereby providing the basis for subsequent searches. The search following the creation of the phase limited knowledge base may be made by selecting either a super category from the navigable group of super categories 28, or by performing a keyword search 42. The phase-limited knowledge base ensures that all URLs included in the group of pertinent URLs 40 pertain to the specified Life Cycle phase of the customer/user's project.

Fig. 5 is an overview of an embodiment of an indexed knowledge base 38 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. In one embodiment of the invention, the indexed knowledge base 38 is built using a process that moves through several data and processing layers. The first layer is knowledge layer 52. "Knowledge" is the dynamic organization of nodes contained in the indexed knowledge base 38, where the significance of a particular node may change according to incremental experiences or associations with a Website and its associated URL. Knowledge layer 52 incorporates all of the nodes

included in the indexed knowledge base, along with information about each node. For example, knowledge layer 52 may further include a tag to each URL and its associated node, as well as information about each URL's attributes. These nodes may be arrived at by any search method; e.g. navigation, keyword, or the like.

The next layer, editorial content layer 54 contains information that may be input by any person interfacing with the indexed knowledge base 38, such as an editor or customer/user 15A-n. Among other things, the information in the editorial content layer 54 may be used to rank, accentuate, comment on, or eliminate certain URLs from inclusion in a group of pertinent URLs 40, resulting from a navigated or keyword search.

Knowledge builder software level 56 is the level that includes the software for transforming the information provided at any level into "knowledge." For example, the knowledge builder software layer 56 may be used to tie the information gathered in the editorial content layer 54 to the knowledge layer 52, thereby effecting a change in the results of a search of the indexed knowledge base 38. The level 56 knowledge builder software may be written in any language suitable for execution on a Website. For example, the knowledge builder software may be written in C, C+, C++, Basic, Visual Basic, or any suitable computer language.

Information layer 58 is the level that includes experiential information about URLs associated with the individual nodes in the indexed knowledge base 38. This experiential information may include, but is not limited to, the number of customer/user 15A-n selections of a particular URL, the size of a URL's associated Website, the number of electronic assets associated with a URL's Website, the average amount of time spent on a particular URL's associated Website, or the like. This information is gathered in information layer 58 and may be used, for example, to rank a URL as against other URLs in a group of pertinent URLs 40.

Electronic software agent layer 60 is the layer containing the software for identifying Internet URLs that may be suitable for inclusion in indexed knowledge base 38. As indexed knowledge base 38 expands and develops, a series of software agents may be employed.

In one embodiment, the electronic software agent recommends URLs for inclusion in indexed knowledge base 38. In doing so, the software agent also provides the editors with a human readable description of the recommended URL's Website, categorizing and sub-categorizing the URLs; e.g. Operating Region, Operating Country, Industry Sector, Supporting Services, Project Lifecycle, etc. The software agent may be further used to develop or assist in developing a description and list of searchable keywords for inclusion in the indexed knowledge base. Multiple software agents may be used for assisting

editors with expanding the knowledge base's content as to reflect the number and content of URLs. Software agents may also be used to remove duplicate URLs, dead links, defective links, and the like. Multiple software agents may be combined into an Internet enabled content management tool, which may be used in conjunction with indexed knowledge base 38 for selecting specific ranges of URLs for use with certain business-to-business transactions. These specific ranges of URLs may include URLs whose associated Websites have certain attributes such as, but not limited to, providing a searchable catalog, having customizable forms, allowing a request for receipt, allowing a request for purchase, any combination of these features, or the like. Like knowledge builder software layer 56, the software used to create the electronic software agent(s) in electronic software agent layer 60 may be written in any language suitable for execution on a Website.

Fig. 6 is an overview of the super category relating to Operating Country 32, which is one of the dimensions of indexed knowledge base 38. In this embodiment, Operating Country 32 has a first sub-category 62A-n that provides a navigated search for project related information about different countries. For example, the customer/user 15A-n could search for URLs relating to any number of countries 62A-n, including but not limited to, the United States, Japan, Uganda, England, Germany, Singapore, and the like. A further refined sub-category includes project related resources for a particular project in that country. For example,

assuming Japan is Country A 62A, a navigated search requesting project related information for an electric power plant in Japan may return a group of pertinent URLs 40 that include the Internet resources and links 64A for a finance company, an existing electric company, recent news articles related to electric power plants, and a construction company that engages in large scale constructions such as electric power plants, among others.

Similar to Fig. 6, Fig. 7 is an overview of the super category relating to Operating Region 30, which is another dimension of indexed knowledge base 38. In this embodiment, Operating Region 30 has sub-categories 66A-n providing a navigated search for project related information about different regions. For example, the customer/user 15A-n could search for URLs relating to any number of regions 66A-n, including but not limited to, Asia, North America, South America, Africa, Europe, and the like. A further refined sub-category of the super category Operating Region 30 includes project related resources for a particular project in that region. For example, assuming Asia is Region A 66A, a navigated search requesting project related information for an electric power plant in Asia may return a group of pertinent URLs 40 that include Internet resources and links 68A with country information for Japan, India, China, Thailand, and Singapore, among others.

Fig. 8 is an overview of the super category relating to Industry Sector 34, which has a sub-categories 70A-n for providing a navigated

search of URLs relating to different industry sectors. For example, the customer/user 15A-n could search for project related information on any of a number of industry sectors 66A-n, including but not limited to, electric power, energy, medical, infrastructure, telecommunications, and the like. Similar to the further refined navigations of Figs. 6 and 7, further refined sub-categories of the super category Industry Sector 34 include project related resources for a particular project in an industry sector. For example, assuming Sector A 70A is electric power plants, a navigated search requesting project related information for an electric power plant may return a group of pertinent URLs 40 that include Internet resources with links 72A for electric power projects, electric power articles, construction companies specializing in large scale constructions such as electric power plants, and finance companies that finance large scale constructions such electric power projects, among others.

Fig. 9 is an overview of the super category Supporting Services 36, which has sub-categories 74A-n for providing a navigated search for project related information about different supporting services. For example, the customer/user 15A-n could search for URLs relating to any number of supporting services, including but not limited to, construction companies, ministries and agencies, finance, culture, geo political situation, tax, and the like. Further refined sub-categories of the super category Supporting Services 36 include project related resources for

particular projects. For example, a navigated search requesting information about construction companies may return a group of pertinent URLs 40 that include Internet resources and links 76A for several construction companies, and current articles about construction companies, among others. As another example, a navigated search requesting information about taxation may return a group of pertinent URLs 40 that include Internet resources and links 76F for various tax codes, companies providing taxation services, and recent articles discussing topics related to taxation, among others.

Fig. 10 is a flow diagram further illustrating an embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, once a customer/user 15A-n enters Website 8, the process for using the Website is started and the customer/user is asked whether they are a registered user 78. If the customer/user answers "no," he or she is prompted to register 80. Registration on Website 8 may allow a customer/user to be a registered user who may enter the Website and use its services, or who receives additional services such as, but not limited to, access to information or services not provided to non-registered users, regular email updates about the Website, discounts at Websites associated with URLs included in the indexed knowledge base 38, a personalized page for easy transactions, access to best practice manuals for each stage of the Website 8 processes, access to secure transaction space, alternative security processing, online collaboration or communication with service

providers, or the like. One skilled in the art would be familiar with techniques for registering users including but not limited to setting a cookie, filling out a questionnaire, selecting a user name and password, inputting a credit card number, a combination of any of these methods, or the like.

Following registration step 80, the customer/user 15A-n is returned to step 78 and again asked whether they are a registered user. If the customer answers "no," he or she will be returned to step 80 and prompted to register. If the customer/user answers "yes," he or she is prompted to input a password 82. If no password is detected 84, the customer/user is returned to step 78, and the process begins anew.

If a password was entered 84, the customer/user's Internet appliance 15A-n displays a list of super category choices 86. The customer/user is prompted to choose a super category 88 from the list of super categories. If a super category is chosen 90, the user is asked whether he or she wants to choose a sub-category 91. If the user answers "no," a list of URLs for the Internet resources belonging to the chosen super category are displayed 96. If the user answer "yes," a list of sub-category choices in the selected super category is displayed 92. The customer/user is prompted to chose a sub-category 94. A list of URLs belonging to the chosen super category, sub-category, or keyword search 96 is then displayed.

Referring back to step 90, if the user did not select a super category, the process presumes the user wanted to do a keyword search, and the user is prompted to input a keyword for a free form search of the indexed knowledge base 98. From here, if the user inputs a keyword 102, the knowledge base is searched 104, and a list of URLs for the resources belonging to the selected keyword are displayed, 96, on the customer/user's Internet appliance. However, if the user did not input a keyword 102 for a keyword search, the user is redirected to step 86 where the customer/user is presented with a list of super category choices, and the process begins anew from this point.

Once a customer/user reaches step 96 where a list of pertinent Internet resources is displayed, he or she may use the URL information to do any of a number of things including submitting a section of the content of a URL to an Internet Browser 97A for a search of further related sites. Similarly, an individual title of one of the URLs may be submitted directly to the Internet for a launch to that Internet Website 97B. Or, alternatively, a customer/user may choose to start the process again by returning to start.

Fig. 11 is a flow diagram illustrating an additional embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, the initial processing of steps 78 through 84 are the same as described above in Fig. 10. After verifying that the customer/user input the password, he or she may choose

whether to perform a navigated search of the super categories, or a free form keyword search of the indexed knowledge base 106.

If the customer/user chooses to perform a keyword search 106, he or she is prompted to input a keyword 108. Verification step 110 checks to see whether a keyword was input. At step 110, if no keyword was input, the customer/user is returned to step 106 and again asked whether to perform a navigated search of the super categories or a keyword search. If a keyword was input at step 110, the indexed knowledge base is searched for the keyword 112, and the customer/user's Internet appliance 16A-n displays a group of pertinent URLs 114. Following step 114, the customer/user is asked whether he or she would like to narrow the search 120. If no narrowing is required, the step 114 group of pertinent URLs is again displayed 121 and the process is ended. If additional narrowing is desired, the customer/user is asked whether he or she would like to narrow by choosing a sub-category, or by doing a keyword search 122. If a keyword search is selected, the customer/user is prompted to input a keyword 126, and the list of sub-categories and Internet resources in the selected super category is searched for any incident of the keyword 128. Likewise, if narrowing by sub-category is chosen, the customer/user selects a sub-category from the selected super category's list of sub-categories 124. Whether narrowing by sub-category or keyword is chosen, once the narrowing search is complete, the Internet appliance 16A-n displays a

group of pertinent URLs 121, and the process is ended, or the customer/user may choose to begin the process again by returning to "start."

Referring back to step 106, if the customer/user chooses to navigate the super categories, the Internet appliance displays a list of the super categories 116 and the customer/user is prompted to choose a super category 117. Verification step 118 checks to see whether a super category was selected. If no super category was selected, the customer/user is returned to step 106, where the process begins anew. If a super category was selected, the Internet appliance displays a list of sub-categories and Internet resources available in the selected super category 119. The customer/user may then decide whether to further narrow the search 120. If no further narrowing is required, the Internet appliance displays a group of pertinent URLs 121. If further narrowing is desired, the customer/user follows the process beginning with step 120 as described above.

Fig. 12 shows a feature that may be implemented in an embodiment of the invention. In Fig. 12, the customer/user 15 locates a group of pertinent URLs 40 that lead to multiple resources, or service providers 131A-n, each suited to participate in his or her project. The customer/user may then access a secured deal space 130 where he or she can ask these service providers to bid for participation in the project. One skilled in the art would be familiar with secure deal spaces,

examples of such a deal space include, but are not limited to, the services on Internet Websites such as www.masterdealmaker.com, www.newchanges.com, or the like.

In one such embodiment, after identifying potential service providers 131A-n, the customer/user may fill out a pre-processed form and submit it to the secured deal space 130. The form is preferably an electronic form and may be a template, a Word™ document, a WordPerfect™ document, an email, or the like. This form may, for example, identify the project's nature, schedule, and budget, as well as the target service providers. Once submitted to the secure deal space 130, these forms may be submitted for bidding to the target service providers, without divulging the customer/user's identity and/or competing service providers. The customer/user may periodically check in, may be notified each time the secure deal space receives a bid, or may receive all bids on a date certain as defined by the customer/user. After all of the bids are in, the customer/user may review the bids, selecting the best service provider to assist with his or her project.

Fig. 13 is an example of a data vault 132 that may be used as an archival location for storing information associated with Website 8. The data vault's archival location may be in memory 6 in server 2, which hosts Website 8, in memory 20A-n corresponding to the customer/user's internet appliance 16A-n, on a client server associated with an Internet web browser, or the like. In one embodiment, data vault 132 stores

indexed knowledge base 38 transactions, wherein a search of the indexed knowledge base produces a selection of information including, for example, information about potential business transactions 134A, selected vendors 134B, and project knowledge 134n. Using this information, a user may conduct a business-to-business transaction in secure deal space 130 by sending a request for quotes, to desired vendors and receiving a response to the same 136. A customer/user may choose to maintain these quotes 136 in the secure deal space 130 for later action, or may choose to make a decision by analyzing the quotes 138 and awarding a contract 140. The entire transaction may be made in the secure deal space, and the results of each step maintained as a record in data vault 132. Other similar business-to-business transactions include, but are not limited to a selecting and purchasing an Internet catalog item, attending an Internet auction, or entering a services exchange.

Fig. 14 is an example of a data vault 132 as used in an embodiment of the invention wherein the data vault is implemented to store information immediately associated with the project tools 142, 144, 146, 148, and 150 of the Website 8. The information stored in the data vault may be maintained for a project's life cycle, even if that life cycle extends for forty years or more. Also, the data stored in a data vault may be maintained at different levels of security depending on the customer/users instructions. And, data vaults may be searchable.

The information stored in data vault 132 is not limited to conducting electronic transactions in the secure deal space. Instead, this information is versatile and may be retrieved for uses such as online Internet based conferencing, or other communications. The data vault may be used for storing any type of data. Among others, these data types include document data, programming data, algorithmic data, Website data, online conferencing data, video data, audio data, and the like.

Fig. 15 is an example of a business-to-business transaction in a secure deal space where the transactions are performed according to a project's Life Cycle phase 48A-n.

Fig. 16 is an example of Website co-branding. Website co-branding creates a secondary database from information on Website 8, and in indexed knowledge base 38. Co-branded Websites have a searchable database 176 containing less than all of the nodes in the indexed knowledge base of Website 8.

Negotiating several steps may create a co-branded Website, including a customized co-branded database 176. One step may be filtering the indexed knowledge base 38 for URLs satisfying certain criteria, and combining the results of that filtering to create a filtered database 170. Depending on the purpose of the co-branded Website, the criteria may include such things as, for example, all URLs related to a specific Country, Region, Industry, or market sector. A second step may

be implementing software tools 172 for use with the indexed knowledge base 38. These software tools may be used in conjunction with an Internet web browser for identifying URLs not otherwise included in indexed knowledge base 38, but that satisfy the customer/user defined criteria for URLs and Websites to be included in the co-branded knowledge base. A third step may be defining Website specific content 174, that should be included in the co-branded Website even if it is information not otherwise defined by the filtering criteria of step 170. This content may include, but is not limited to, such things as specific Websites, business-to-business access, search methods, a certain look and feel, or the like.

In addition to steps 170, 172, and 174, using Website mining technologies 168, which include technologies for appropriate Website identification, Website extraction, and Website importation, among others, may refine the content in a co-branded Website, as well as add pertinent URLs to the Website 8 indexed knowledge base 38. These technologies may include, among others, the technologies described in the search techniques accompanying Fig. 2. In particular, applicable features may include those associated with meta browsers such as Surfwax™. Also, these methods may include using software agents such as those discussed in connection with Fig. 5, for organizing a database directory by performing such tasks as removing dead and duplicate URL links. Further, Internet based editing tools may be used

for mining data 168. An Internet editing tool may allow an editor to classify a Website, maintaining the classification and adding searchable descriptors from snapshot summaries.

The information included in a customized co-branded database 176 may include information associated with a project posted on Website 8. The nature of a posted project may or may not make the information associated therewith appropriate for inclusion in customized co-branded database 176.

Fig. 17 illustrates the initial screen that appears upon access to the Website 8. The screen provides an image of a searchable data designed for project development, and including at least five distinct services: iwKnowledge 178, iwFramework 180, iwBusiness 182, iwService 184, and iwCollaborate 186. The service iwKnowledge 178 allows customers/users 15A-n to quickly find information using customized search capability with thousands of global industry links. The service iwFramework provides a full life cycle project management tool for managing every lifecycle phase of a project. The service iwBusiness 182 is a service for transacting online business by implementing such tools as secure deal space 132. The service iwService allows users to interact with industry experts for general and specialized project assistance. The service iwCollaborate allows customers/users to stay informed by using online conferencing, accessing industry specific papers and journals, receiving real-time email updates, receiving real-time news updates, and

the like. The backbone of the Infrastructure World Website is a searchable indexed knowledge base 38.

Figs. 18A-M are screen shots highlighting the details of the service iwFramework, as included in an embodiment of the Website 8, where Website 8 is the Infrastructure World Website. Generally, iwFramework creates a comprehensive life cycle web based management system using distributed and /or central systems. This life cycle management allows business customers/users to manage each phase of a project from cradle to grave. The iwFramework tools include project transaction and budgeting tools. Other iwFramework tools provide for on line collaboration and communication for effectuating a project's phase goals.

At the Infrastructure World Website, iwFramework is a tool that creates a comprehensive life cycle Internet based management system. This tool may use distributed and/or central systems. In use, iwFramework allows a client/user to engage in phase-by-phase project management, including every phase from cradle to grave. Also, iwFramework may provide project management tools for monitoring and controlling project transactions, budgets, and schedules. These tools may include, but are not limited to Internet tools for telephony, group conferencing, group collaborations, transacting deals in a secure deal space, global scheduling, shared scheduling, project management, procurement, access to industry papers, real time news updates, email updates, and the like. IwFramework may provide access to Internet

resources whether they have a URL or are identified by other means, such as a hard document link or an email address. Also, iwFramework is a tool for integrating the iwKnowledge, iwCollaboration, iwService, and iwBusiness processes, also available on the Infrastructure World Website.

In one embodiment, iwFramework provides all or portions of the software for conducting each of the processes available in the iwFramework tool. In another embodiment, iwFramework provides all or a portion of the software for conducting each of the processes available on the Infrastructure World Website. These processes include, but are not limited to active server pages.

In one embodiment of the invention, iwFramework cooperates with a secured deal space where business-to-business transactions may be made. The transactions conducted in the secure deal space may be stored in a data vault 132 for later processing, editing, or historical purposes. The iwFramework tool may provide a data vault for storing all or portions of communications in a long-term searchable archive. One skilled in the art would be familiar with appropriate storage medium for the long-term storage of data.

Fig. 18A shows typical project phases 48 A-F. These project phases are illustrative of the type of project phases that might be included in a project's life cycle. These phases include concept phase 48A, feasibility phase 48B, definitive planning phase 48C, project

structuring phase 48D, project release 48E, project implementation 48F, and commercial operation 48G.

Figs. 18B-M are illustrative of the type of resource that may be available for different phases of a project

Figs. 19A-W are screen shots highlighting the details of the service iwKnowledge, as included in an embodiment of the Website 8, where Website 8 is the Infrastructure World Website. Figs. 19A-W illustrate the results of various navigated searches as navigated through different super categories and sub-categories in the indexed knowledge base 38.

The invention has been described in general terms according to embodiments of the invention. However, those of ordinary skill in the art will understand that certain modifications or changes may be made to the disclosed embodiment without departing from the essential nature of the invention. For example, the functions of the software executed in the software modules and/or the software described in connection with the invention could be achieved in hardware; e.g. the software's functionality could be contained in an ASIC or a programmable hardware device. The invention should therefore not be limited to the particular embodiments discussed above, but rather is defined by the claims.

We claim:

1. A project development Website comprising at least one Web page, wherein a user can select between categories to concurrently search for multiple aspects of a project thereby locating project directed resources related to said multiple aspects.

2. The project development Website of claim 1, further comprising: a multi-dimensional knowledge base defined by said categories, said multi-dimensional knowledge base being an indexed database indexed according to said categories and having a plurality of nodes, each said node being a URL.

3. The project development Website of claim 2 wherein said categories are selected from the group consisting of Life Cycle, Operating Region, Operating Country, Industry Sector, and Supporting Services.

4. The project development Website of claim 2, wherein said category is Life Cycle, further comprising:

project phases for determining a project's progress where each said phase is defined according to functional tasks, said project directed resources being located using said project phase as a selection criteria.

5. The project development Website of claim 2, wherein each said URL has its own attributes.

6. The project development Website of claim 1, further comprising: a user key for entering the Website.

7. The project development Website of claim 6, wherein said key is a user password.

8. A project development Website wherein a user selects between categories to concurrently search for multiple aspects of a project thereby locating project directed resources wherein said multiple aspects of said project are pre-selected Uniform Resource Locators (URLs).

9. A project development Website comprising at least one Web page for navigating through pre-defined categories to locate project directed resources identified in a multi-dimensional knowledge base wherein:

said multi-dimensional knowledge base being an indexed database and having multiple entry points, where said pre-defined categories are said multiple entry points;

each said pre-defined category having sub-categories for navigating through said multi-dimensional knowledge base to locate said project directed resources; and

each said project directed resources being a URL.

10. The project development Website of claim 8, wherein one of said pre-defined categories is selected from the group consisting of Life Cycle, Operating Region, Operating Country, Industry Sector, and Supporting Services.

11. A method for using an Internet appliance to develop a business project on a project development Website, comprising the steps of:

using said Internet appliance, initiating a navigated search of an indexed knowledge base;

selecting a super category from the group consisting of Life Cycle, Operating Region, Operating Country, Industry Sector, and Supporting Services, where said super categories are indexed in said indexed knowledge base;

searching said indexed knowledge base for Internet resources corresponding to said navigated search of said selected super category; and

displaying on said Internet appliance, a group of pertinent URLs.

12. The method of claim 11, where said selected super category is Life Cycle, further comprising the step of:

identifying the project phase of said Life Cycle said project is in.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said project phase limits said navigated search of said indexed knowledge base to only those URL's whose associated Website provides information, data, or services applicable to said project phase.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein each URL in said group of pertinent URLs has its own attributes.

15. The method of claim 11, where the step of initiating a navigated search of an indexed knowledge base further comprises the step of: entering said project development Website by using a key.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said key is a user password.

17. A method for using an Internet appliance to develop a business project on a project development Website, comprising the steps of:

using said Internet appliance;

initiating a search of an indexed knowledge base where said search may be a navigated search of pre-determined super categories or a keyword search;

selecting a super category from the group consisting of Life Cycle, Operating Region, Operating Country, Industry Sector, and Supporting

Services, where said super categories are indexed in said indexed knowledge base, if a navigated search is selected;

searching said indexed knowledge base for Internet resources corresponding to said navigated search of said selected super category;

displaying on said Internet appliance, a group of pertinent URLs corresponding to said navigated search;

entering a keyword, if a keyword search is selected;

searching said indexed knowledge base for Internet resources corresponding to said keyword; and

displaying on said Internet appliance, a group of pertinent URLs corresponding to said keyword search.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said group of pertinent URLs is a group of URLs each being identified to an Internet Website, where more than one of said Internet Websites are service provider, further comprising the steps of:

using a secure deal space;

requesting bids from said service providers;

receiving said bids from said service providers;

selecting a bid from among said received bids, thereby choosing one of said service providers; and

negotiating a contract for services from said selected service provider.

Method and Apparatus for Business to Business Project Development With Indexed Knowledge Base

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A project development Website in which a user can select between categories to concurrently search for multiple aspects of a project, thereby locating project directed resources related to the multiple aspects. In this system the user can perform all the necessary steps to find information, obtain financing and setup business agreements necessary for starting a business. The multiple aspects of the project may include pre-selected Uniform Resource Locators (URLs). The project development Website may include a multi-dimensional knowledge base defined by the categories. The multi-dimensional knowledge base may be a database indexed according to the categories and having a plurality of nodes, each node being a URL. The categories may be Life Cycle, Operating Region, Operating Country, Industry Sector, and Supporting Services, for example. The Life Cycle category may include project phases for determining a project's progress. The project development Website may include a user key for entering the Website, which may function as a user password.

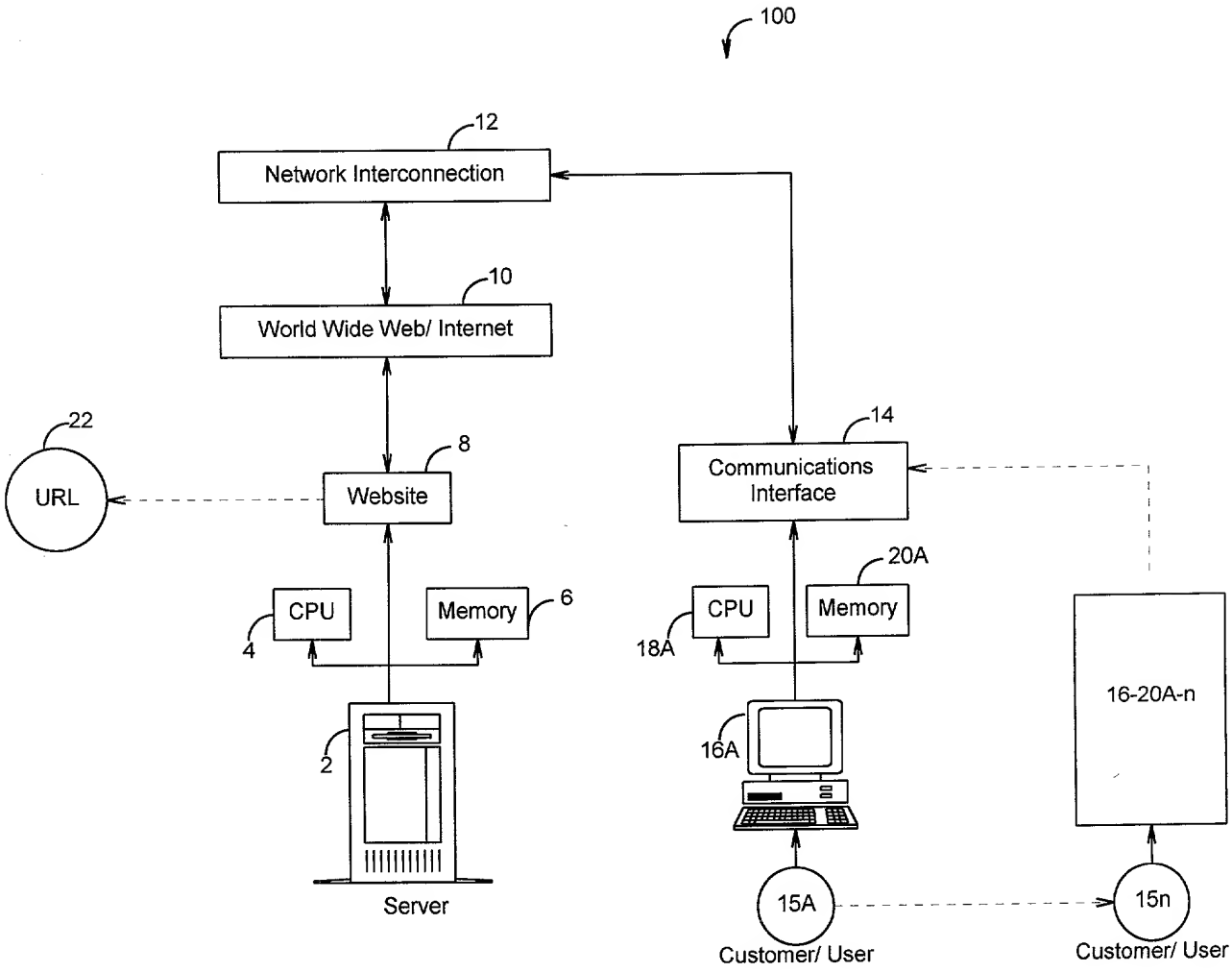

100
12
Network Interconnection
10
World Wide Web/ Internet
22
URL
8
Website
14
Communications Interface
20A
CPU
Memory
6
4
18A
CPU
Memory
16-20A-n
2
16A
Server
15A
15n
Customer/ User
Customer/ User

Fig. 1

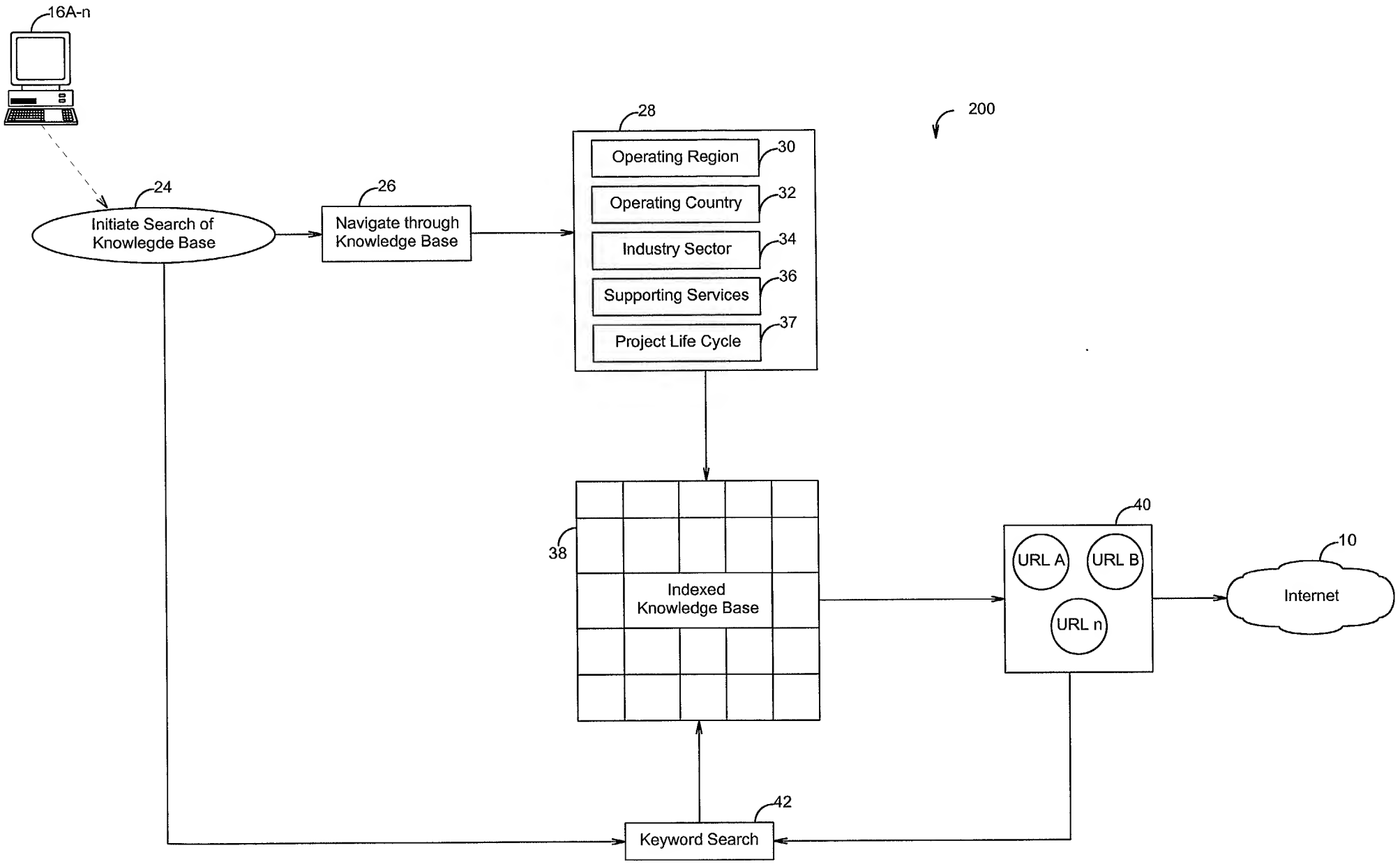


Fig. 2

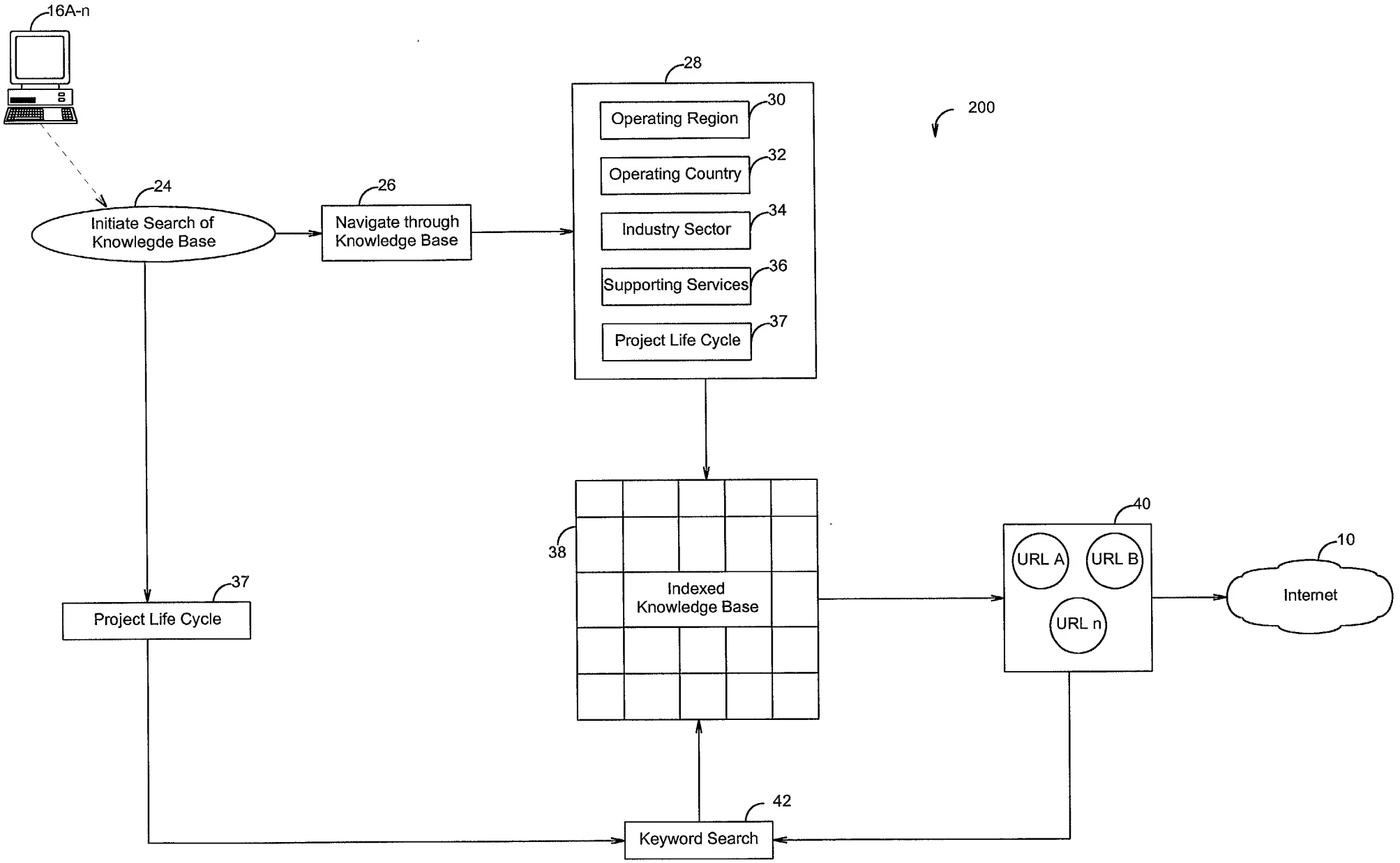


Fig. 2A

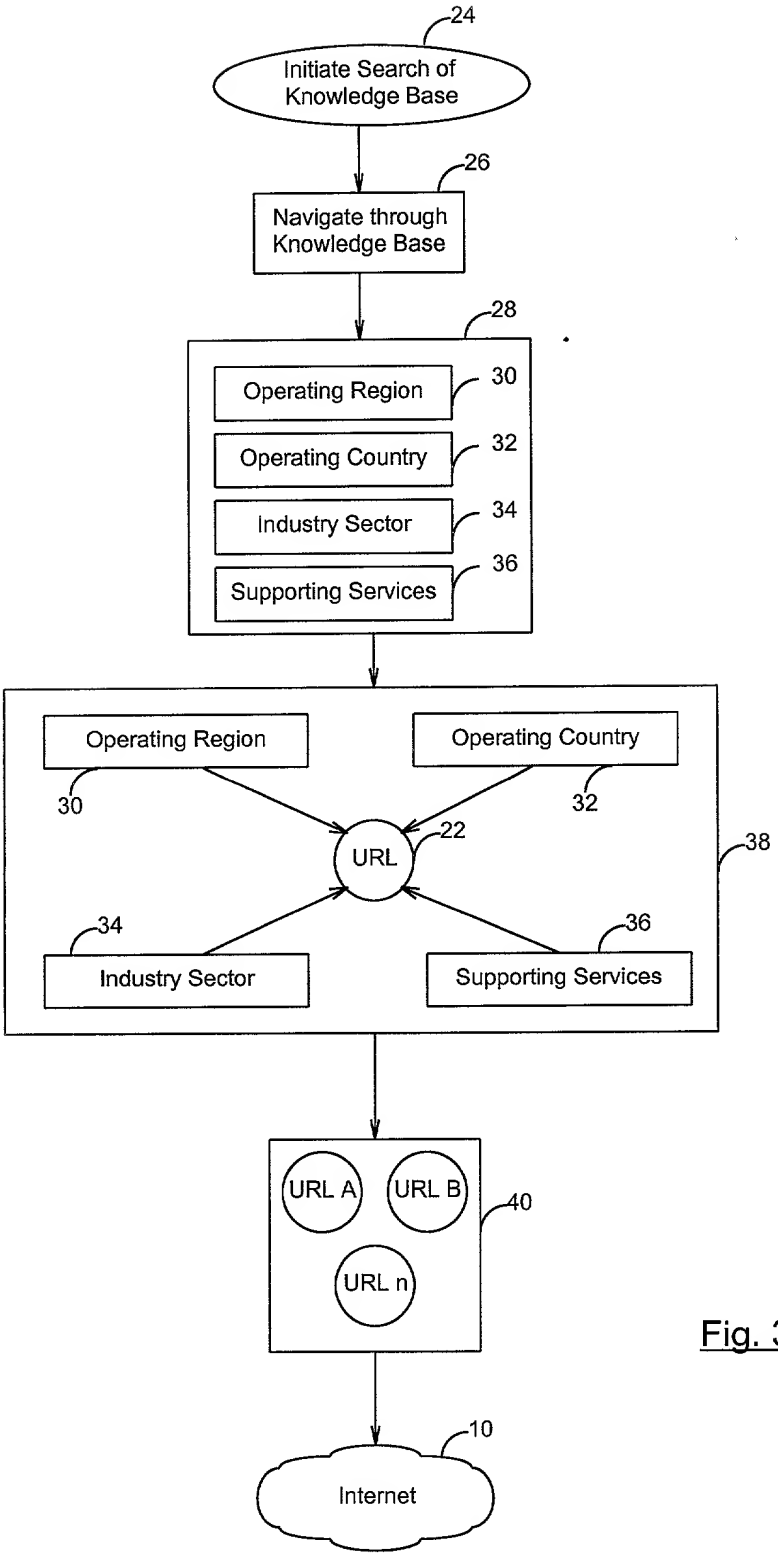

24
Initiate Search of Knowledge Base
26
Navigate through Knowledge Base
28
Operating Region
30
Operating Country
32
Industry Sector
34
Supporting Services
36
Operating Region
30
Operating Country
32
URL
22
38
34
Industry Sector
36
Supporting Services
URL A
URL B
URL n
40
10
Internet

Fig. 3

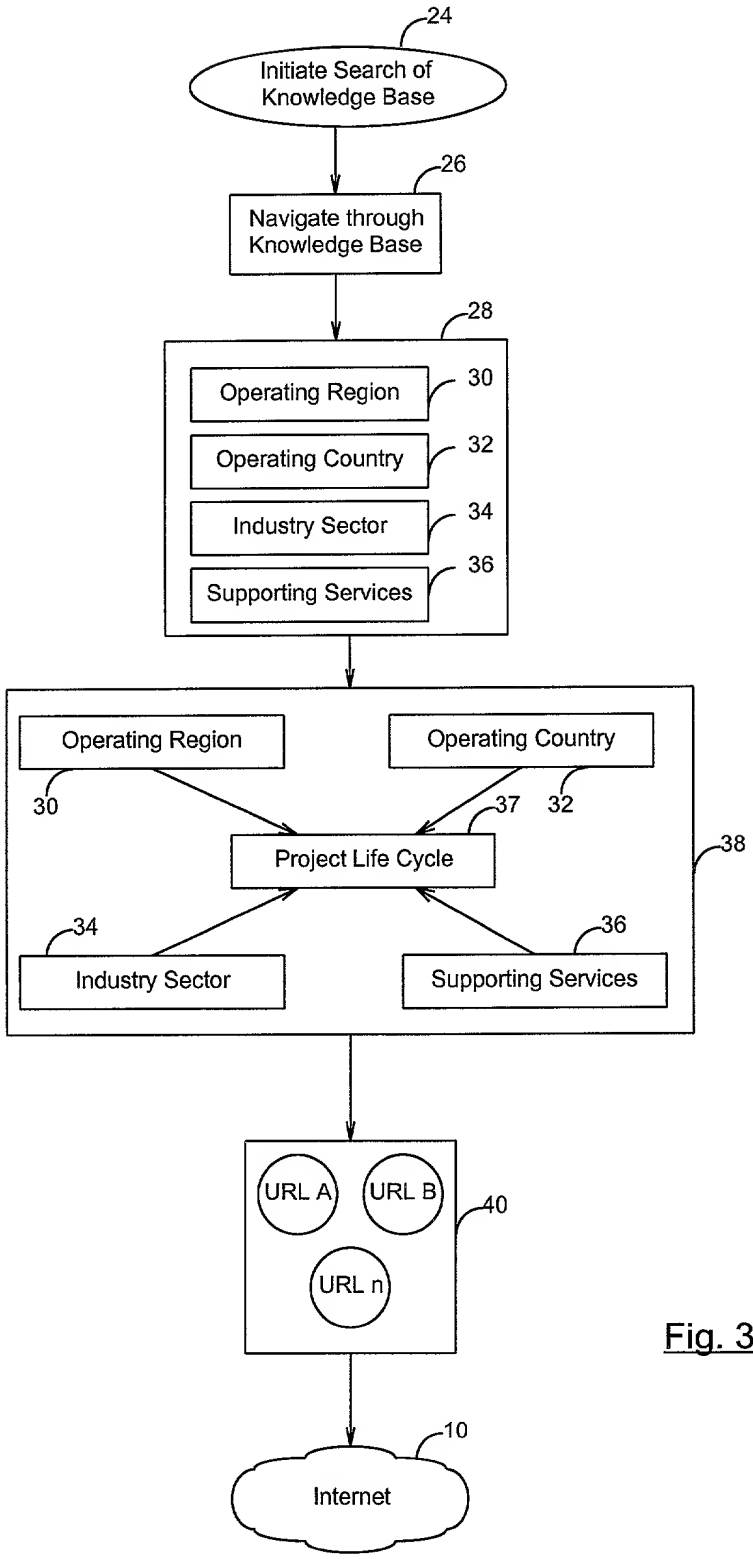

24
Initiate Search of Knowledge Base
26
Navigate through Knowledge Base
28
Operating Region
30
Operating Country
32
Industry Sector
34
Supporting Services
36
Operating Region
30
Operating Country
32
37
Project Life Cycle
38
34
Industry Sector
36
Supporting Services
URL A
URL B
URL n
40
10
Internet

Fig. 3A

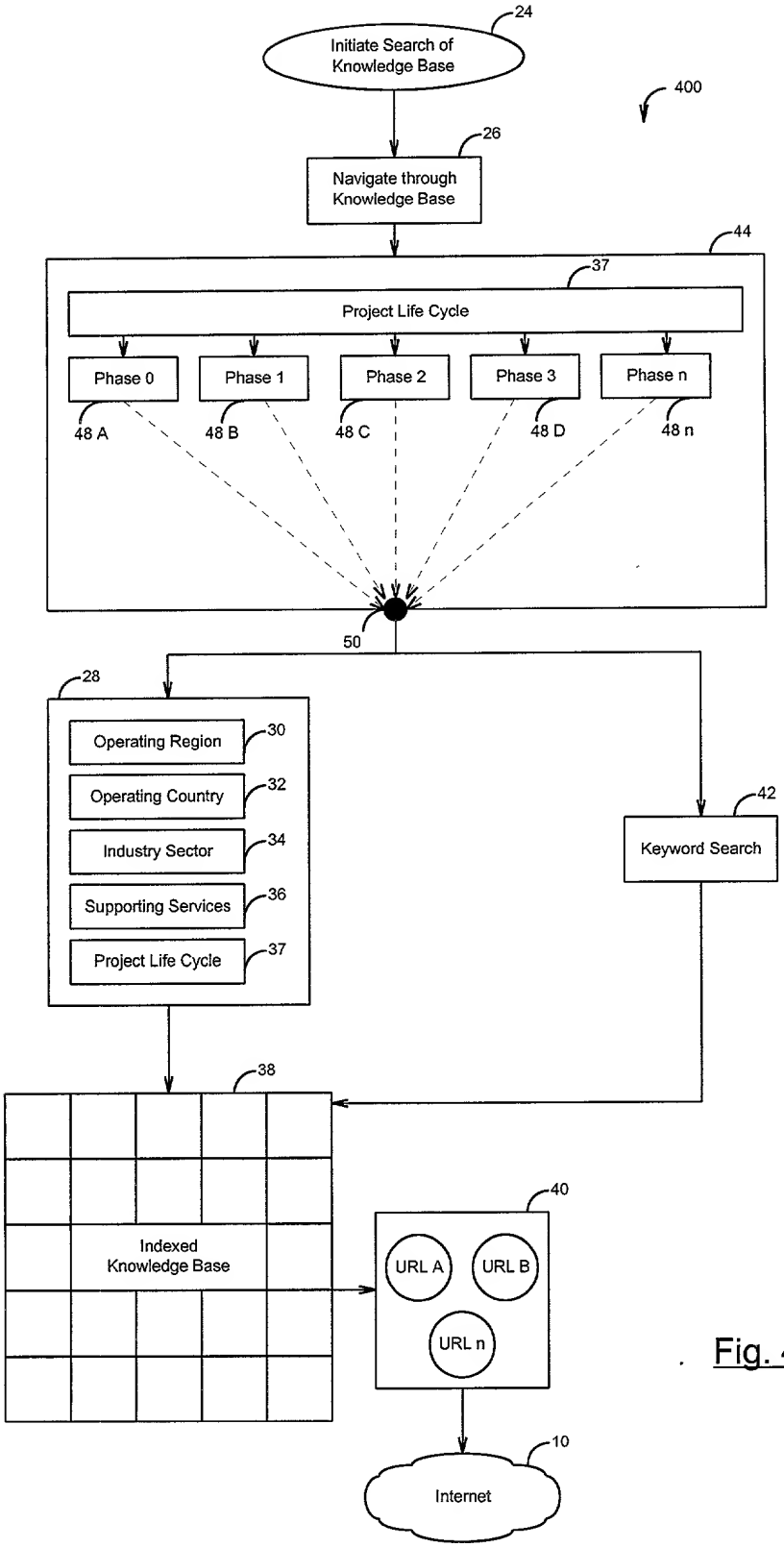

Initiate Search of Knowledge Base
24
400
Navigate through Knowledge Base
26
44
37
Project Life Cycle
Phase 0
Phase 1
Phase 2
Phase 3
Phase n
48 A
48 B
48 C
48 D
48 n
50
28
Operating Region
30
Operating Country
32
Industry Sector
34
Supporting Services
36
Project Life Cycle
37
Keyword Search
42
38
Indexed Knowledge Base
40
URL A
URL B
URL n
10
Internet

Fig. 4

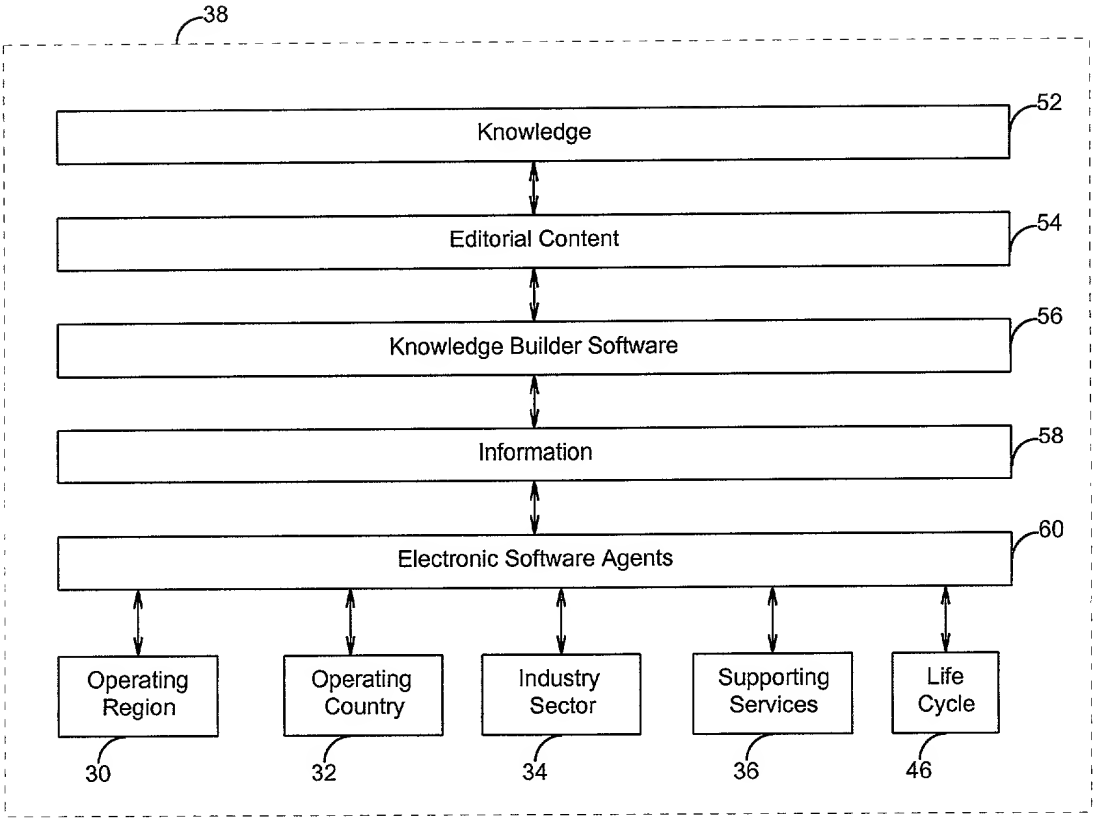

38
Knowledge
52
Editorial Content
54
Knowledge Builder Software
56
Information
58
Electronic Software Agents
60
Operating Region
Operating Country
Industry Sector
Supporting Services
Life Cycle
30
32
34
36
46

Fig. 5

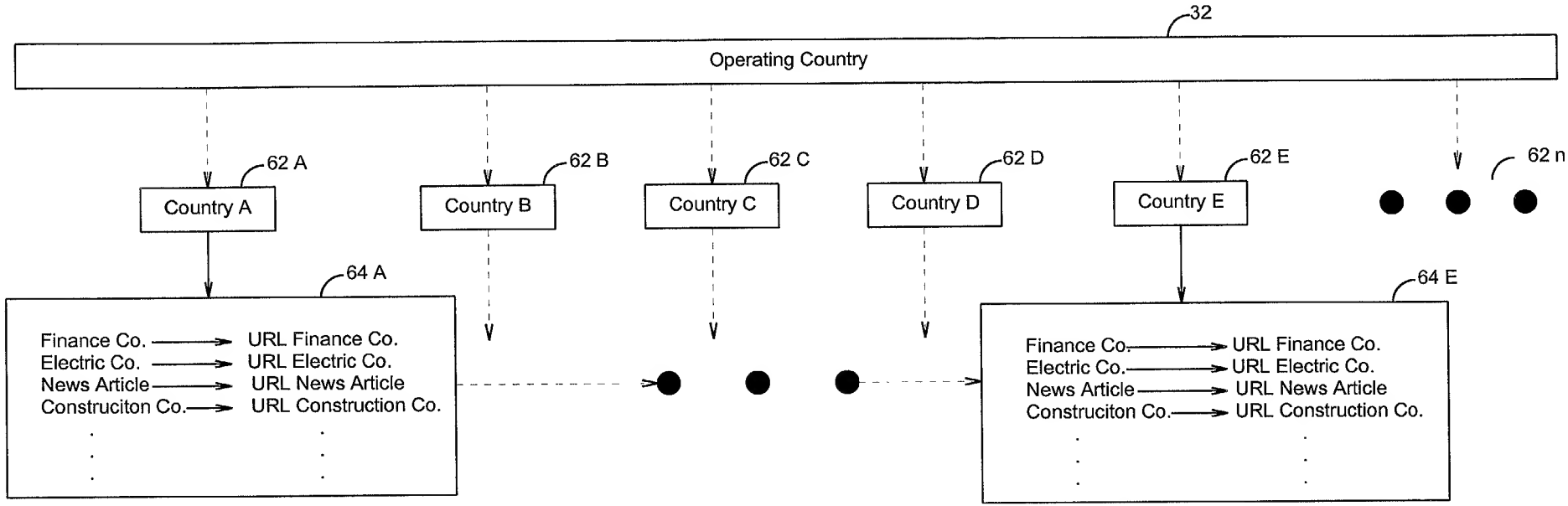

32
Operating Country
62 A
Country A
62 B
Country B
62 C
Country C
62 D
Country D
62 E
Country E
62 n
64 A
Finance Co. → URL Finance Co.
Electric Co. → URL Electric Co.
News Article → URL News Article
Construciton Co. → URL Construction Co.
64 E
Finance Co. → URL Finance Co.
Electric Co. → URL Electric Co.
News Article → URL News Article
Construciton Co. → URL Construction Co.

Fig. 6

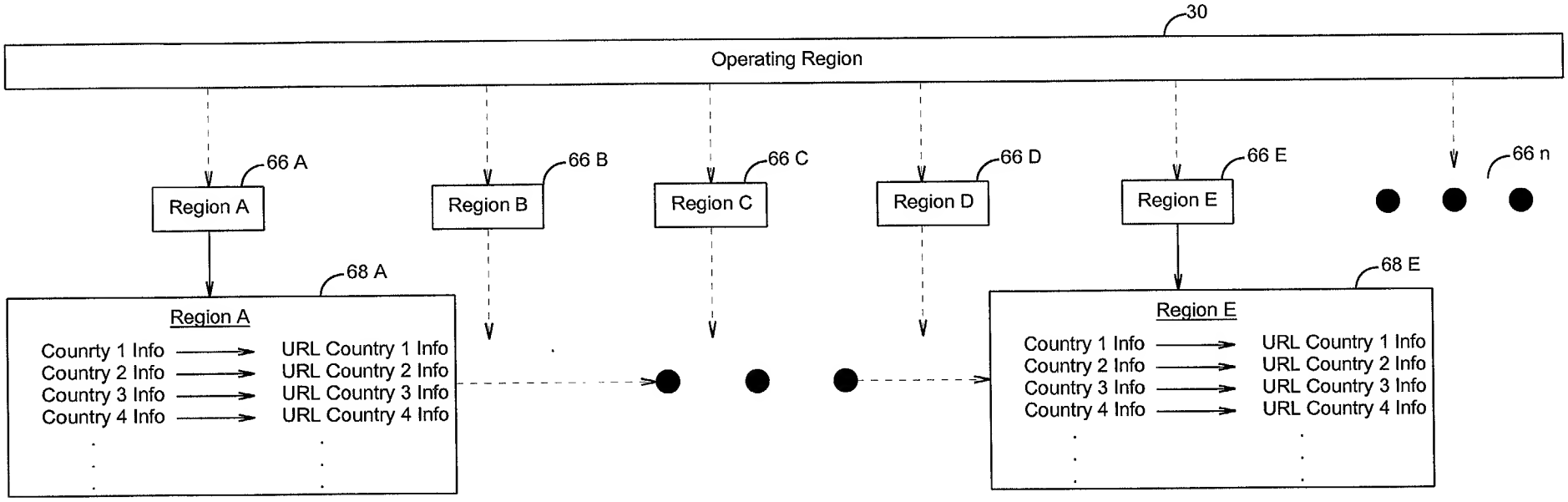


Fig. 7

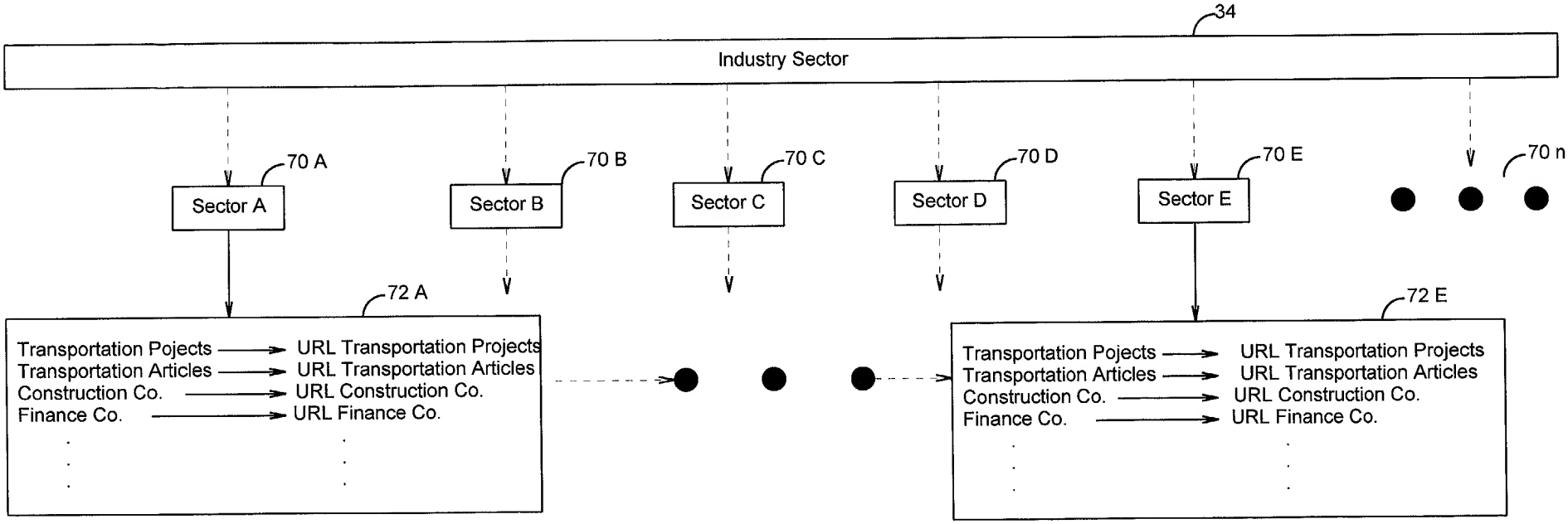

34
Industry Sector
70 A
Sector A
70 B
Sector B
70 C
Sector C
70 D
Sector D
70 E
Sector E
70 n
72 A
Transportation Pojects → URL Transportation Projects
Transportation Articles → URL Transportation Articles
Construction Co. → URL Construction Co.
Finance Co. → URL Finance Co.
72 E
Transportation Pojects → URL Transportation Projects
Transportation Articles → URL Transportation Articles
Construction Co. → URL Construction Co.
Finance Co. → URL Finance Co.

Fig. 8

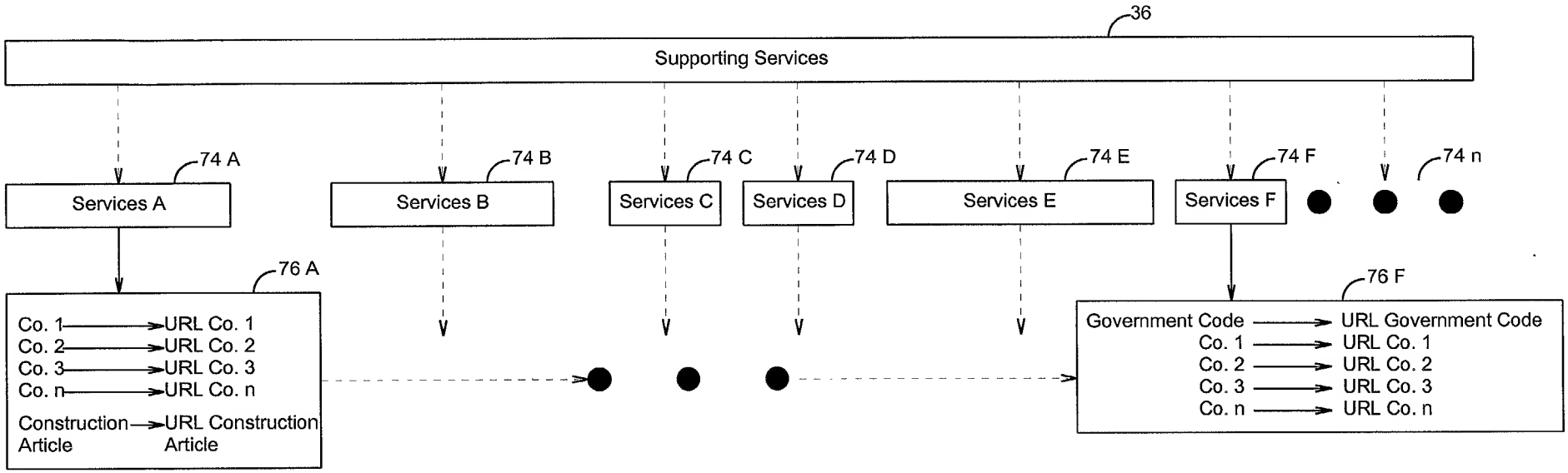

36
Supporting Services
74 A
Services A
74 B
Services B
74 C
Services C
74 D
Services D
74 E
Services E
74 F
Services F
74 n
76 A
Co. 1 → URL Co. 1
Co. 2 → URL Co. 2
Co. 3 → URL Co. 3
Co. n → URL Co. n
Construction Article → URL Construction Article
76 F
Government Code → URL Government Code
Co. 1 → URL Co. 1
Co. 2 → URL Co. 2
Co. 3 → URL Co. 3
Co. n → URL Co. n

Fig. 9

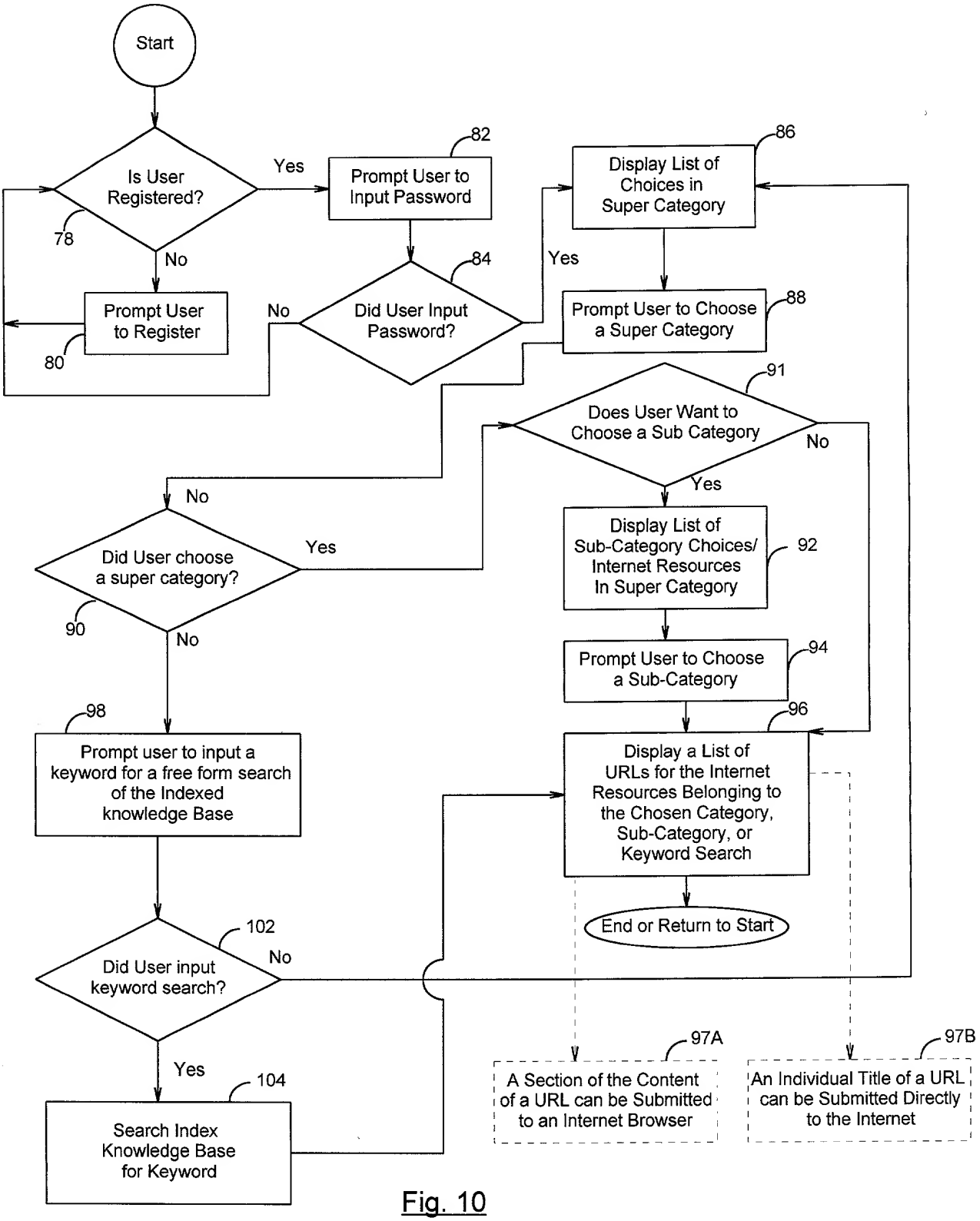

Start
Is User Registered?
78
Yes
No
Prompt User to Input Password
82
Prompt User to Register
80
Did User Input Password?
84
No
Yes
Display List of Choices in Super Category
86
Prompt User to Choose a Super Category
88
Does User Want to Choose a Sub Category
91
No
Yes
Did User choose a super category?
90
No
Yes
Display List of Sub-Category Choices/ Internet Resources In Super Category
92
Prompt User to Choose a Sub-Category
94
Display a List of URLs for the Internet Resources Belonging to the Chosen Category, Sub-Category, or Keyword Search
96
End or Return to Start
Prompt user to input a keyword for a free form search of the Indexed knowledge Base
98
Did User input keyword search?
102
No
Yes
Search Index Knowledge Base for Keyword
104
A Section of the Content of a URL can be Submitted to an Internet Browser
97A
An Individual Title of a URL can be Submitted Directly to the Internet
97B

Fig. 10

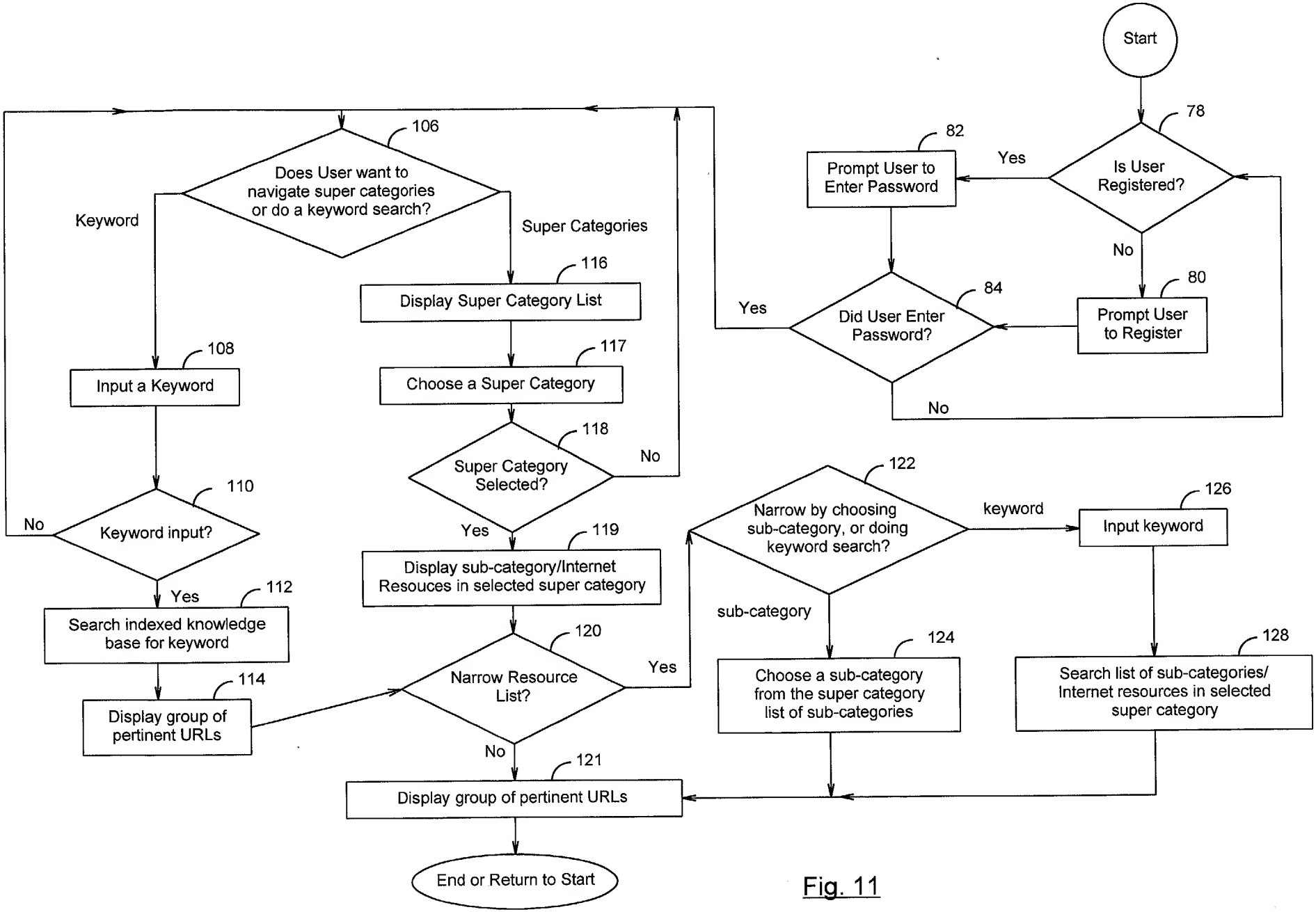


Fig. 11

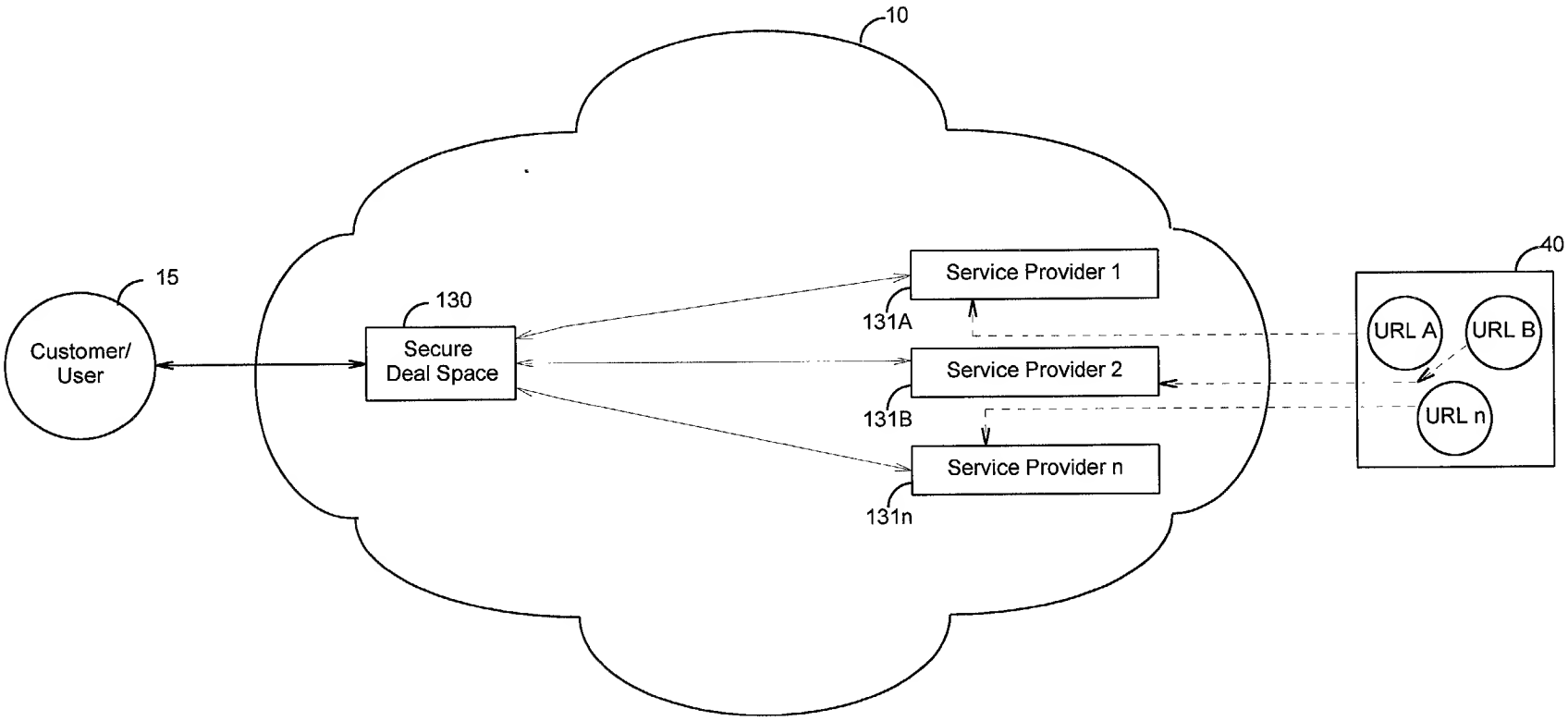

10
15
Customer/
User
130
Secure
Deal Space
Service Provider 1
131A
Service Provider 2
131B
Service Provider n
131n
40
URL A
URL B
URL n

Fig. 12

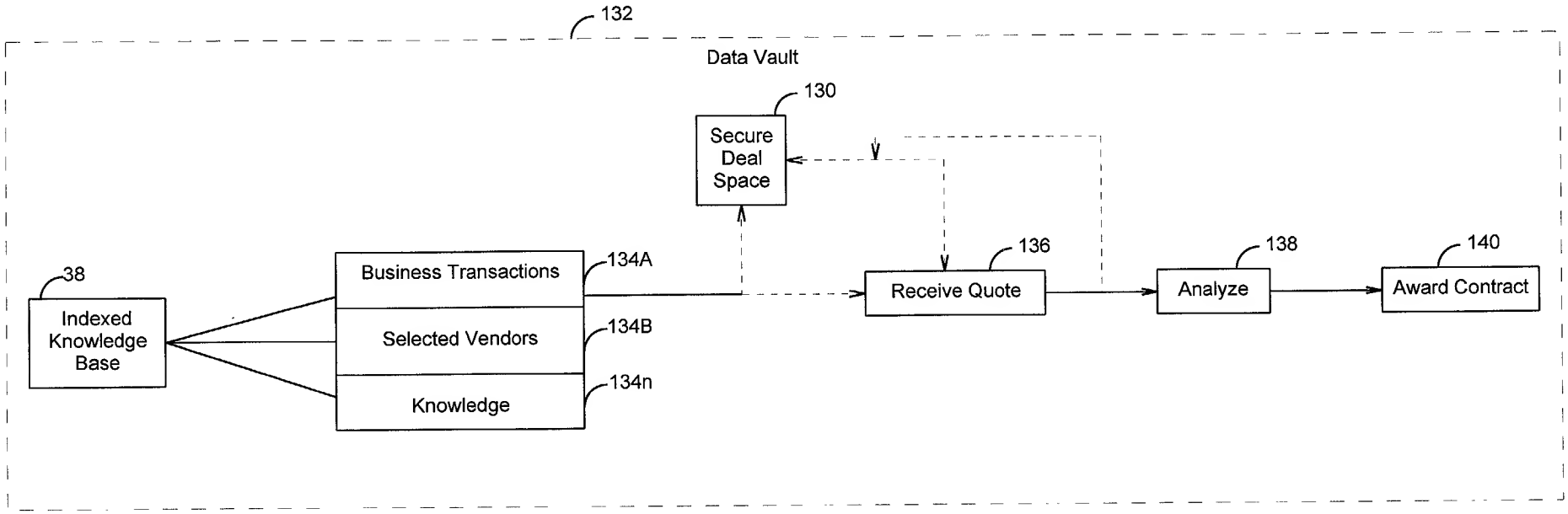

132
Data Vault
130
Secure Deal Space
38
Indexed Knowledge Base
Business Transactions
134A
Selected Vendors
134B
Knowledge
134n
136
Receive Quote
138
Analyze
140
Award Contract

Fig. 13

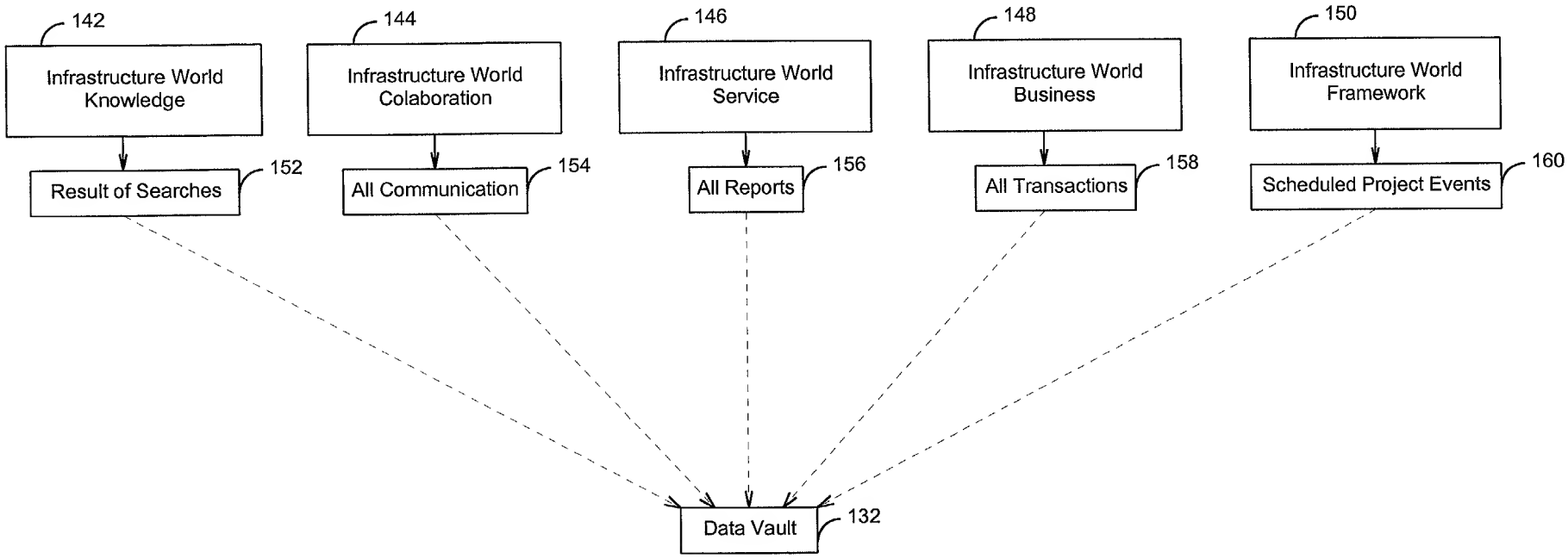

142
Infrastructure World Knowledge
144
Infrastructure World Colaboration
146
Infrastructure World Service
148
Infrastructure World Business
150
Infrastructure World Framework
Result of Searches
152
All Communication
154
All Reports
156
All Transactions
158
Scheduled Project Events
160
Data Vault
132

Fig. 14

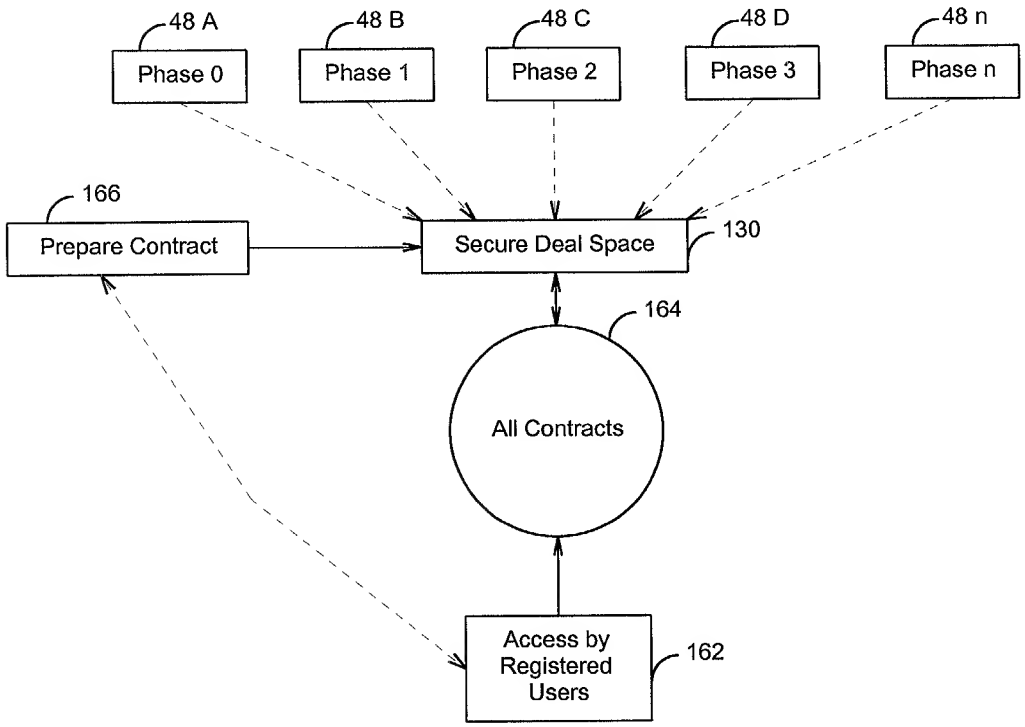


Fig. 15

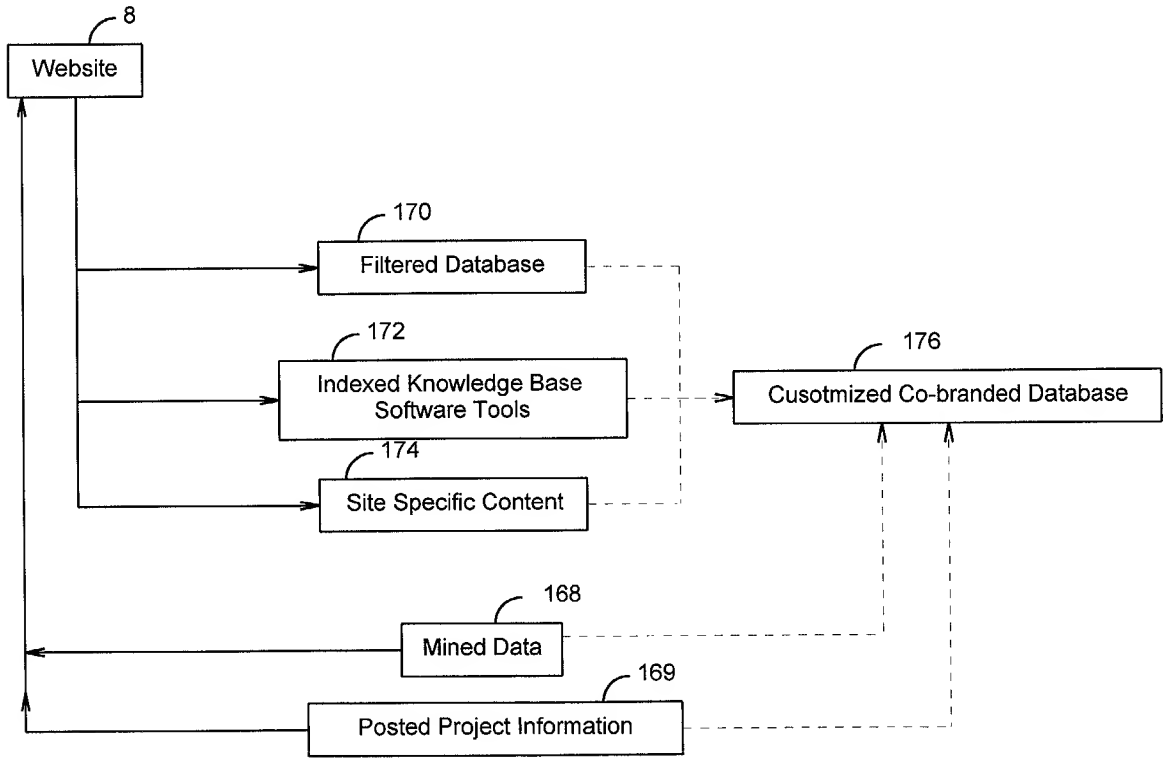


Fig. 16

infrastructure WORLD.COM

Login:

Password:

Register for Free

Forgot your password?

Major Industry Sectors
- Electric Power
- Energy
- Telecom & IT
- Transportation
- Water

Data
- Engineering, Procurement & Construction
- Equipment Suppliers
- Companies
- Conferences
- Country Data
- Finance
- Insurance & Risk
- Law
- News
- Service Sector
- Research Tools

Downloads

Welcome to InfrastructureWorld.com -

This site was designed for project sponsors, developers, service providers and other professionals. Preview any service on this page and discover the global infrastructure community for information, project management, project opportunities and online business transactions.

178

iwKnowledge

Find information faster with customized search capabilities and thousands of global industry links

182

iwBusiness

Transact business online using seamless "click-thru" trading capabilities

180

iwFramework

Manage projects and host complete lifecycle project data

iwService 184

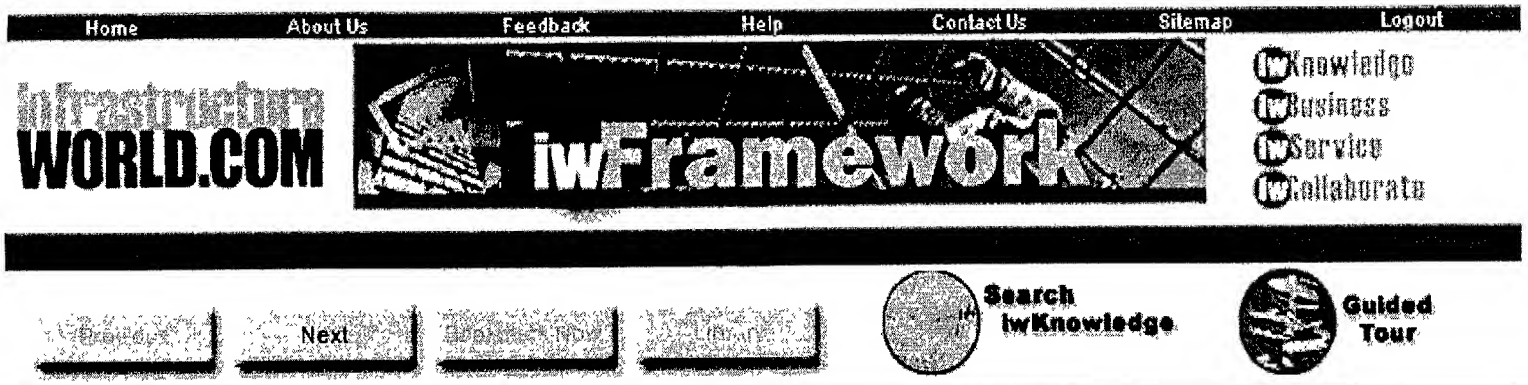
Interact with industry experts for general and specialized project assistance

186

iwCollaborate

Stay informed through conferences online, industry papers and real-time updates

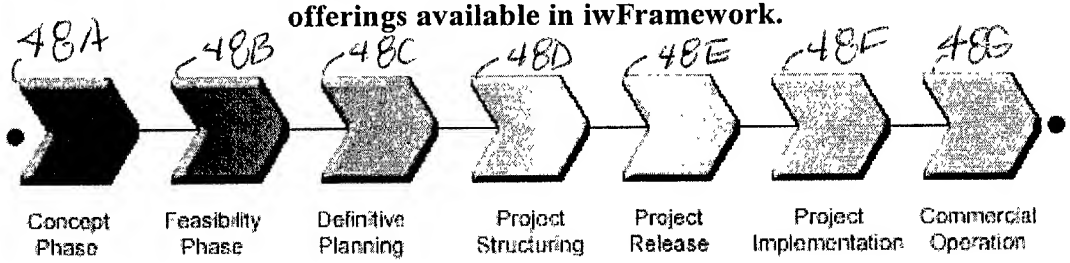
Fig. 17



iwBusiness
Project Dashboard
Finance Profiler
Insurance Risk Mgt Profiler
Procurement Cycle Profiler
Personalize Page
Update Profile
Import News Feeds
Data Vault Tour
Process Flow Guides
Project Life Cyle Mgmt Tools
Contact Us
Expert Resources
IW.com Call Center
Help
Return to Homepage

Greenfield Project Lifecycle Process Guide and Management Tools Dashboard

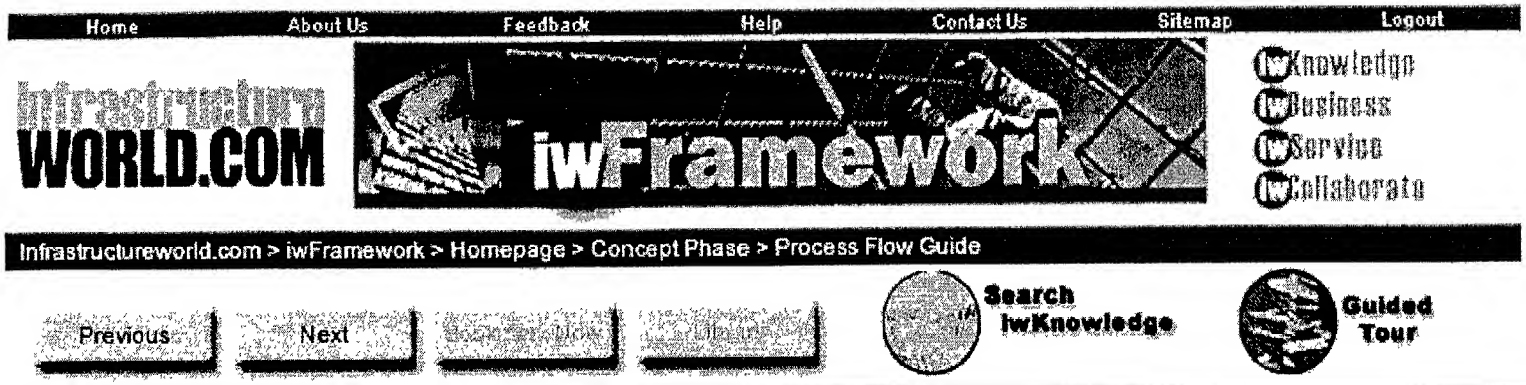
Welcome to iwFramework, the integrated resource center that provides process flow guides, "best practice" handbooks, digital data vault and complete project lifecycle management tools for infrastructure. Click one of the arrows below to select from the integrated product offerings available in iwFramework.



Task Assignment Checklist	Project Milestones
• Project Structuring • Finance • Insurance • Procurement	• Execute PPA – 10/31/00 • Permits / Approvals – 3/31/01 • Financial Closing – 5/30/01 • Notice to Proceed – 6/05/01
Activities Under Way	**Last Updated**

09660312 .091200

Fig. 18A

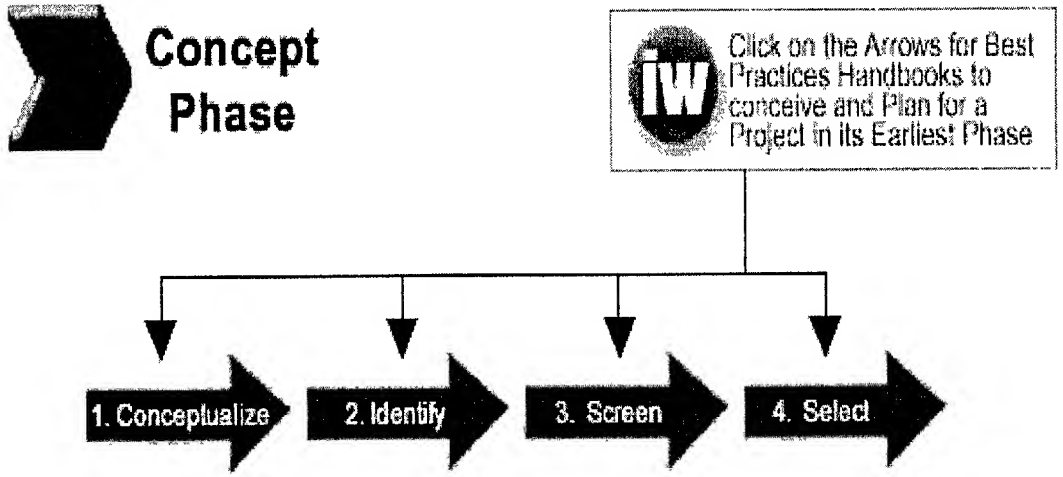


Directory

- iwBusiness
  - Project Dashboard
  - Finance Profiler
  - Insurance Risk Mgt Profiler
  - Procurement Cycle Profiler
  - Personalize Page
  - Update Profile
  - Import News Feeds
- Data Vault Tour
- Process Flow Guides
- Project Life Cyle Management Tools
- Contact Us
  - Expert Resources
  - IW.com Call Center
- Help
- Return to Homepage

Greenfield Project Process Flow Guide

The Concept Phase of Greenfield Project Development Conceptualizes the Developer's Business Goals, Identifies Deal Flow, Screens Oppurtunities to Align Deal Flow with Business Goals and Selects Projects for the Feasibility Phase of Review



09660312 . 091200

Fig. 18B

Feasibility Phase

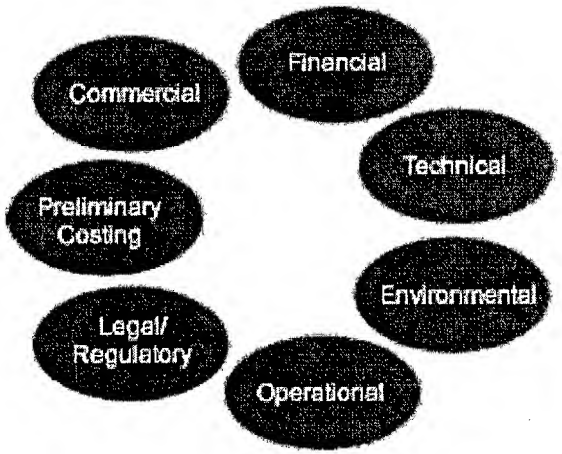
Task Assignment Checklist	Project Milestones
• Project Structuring • Finance • Insurance • Procurement	• Execute PPA – 10/31/00 • Permits / Approvals – 3/31/01 • Financial Closing – 5/30/01 • Notice to Proceed – 6/05/01
Activities Under Way	**Last Updated**
• Non-Recourse Debt RFP Response Received • Engineering / Design RFP Out	• 31 August 2000

Greenfield Project Process Flow Guide

The Feasibility Phase Focuses on the Myriad Evaluations Necessary Reach a Management Decision to Commit Appropriate Resources to Ensure Successful Project Structuring

Feasibility Phase

Click on the Categories for Best Practices Handbooks to Evaluate a Project to Determine its Merits and Feasibility



09660312 .091200

Fig. 18D

- Continue to Develop Project
- Reject Project
- Re-Evaluate Project

Definitive Planning

Task Assignment Checklist	Project Milestones
• Project Structuring • Finance • Insurance • Procurement	• Execute PPA – 10/31/00 • Permits / Approvals – 3/31/01 • Financial Closing – 5/30/01 • Notice to Proceed – 6/05/01
Activities Under Way	**Last Updated**
• Non-Recourse Debt RFP Response Received • Engineering / Design RFP Out	• 31 August 2000

Fig. 18-E

Greenfield Project Process Flow Guide

In the Definitive Project Planning Phase, Developers Transition from Feasibility Studies to Test Conclusions with Market Negotiations, Conceptual Engineerings and Selection of Advisors, Engineers, Financiers and Constructors, Etc..

Definitive Planning

Click on the Categories for Best Practices Handbooks to Review Suggested Steps in the Structuring Process

Click on any button in the future to review Drop Down Menus with pointers to sample Contracts, Planning, Resources and Negotiation Best Practices Guides.

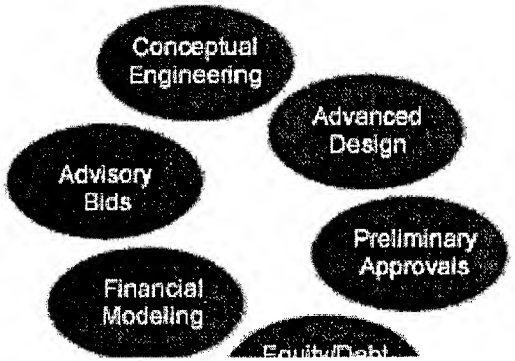


Fig. 18F

- Continue to Structuring
- Reject Project
- Re-Evaluate Project

Project Structuring

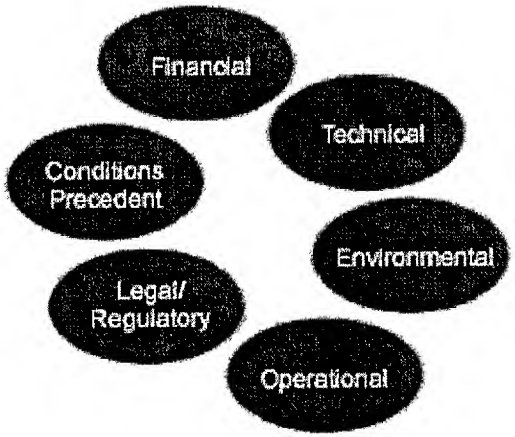
Task Assignment Checklist	Project Milestones
• Project Structuring • Finance • Insurance • Procurement	• Execute PPA – 10/31/00 • Permits / Approvals – 3/31/01 • Financial Closing – 5/30/01 • Notice to Proceed – 6/05/01
Activities Under Way	**Last Updated**
• Non-Recourse Debt RFP Response Received • Engineering / Design RFP Out	• 31 August 2000

Greenfield Project Process Flow Guide

Project Release Takes Place As and When All Formal Approvals, Permits, Assigns and Financing Have Been Obtained

Project Release

Click on the Categories for Best Practices Handbooks to Review Closing Checklist and Project Release Guidelines

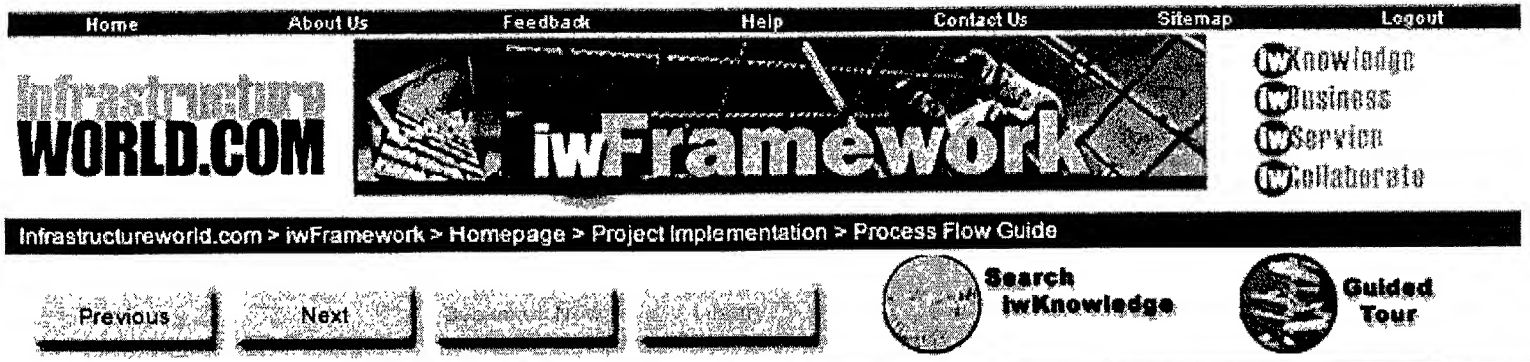


- Project Release Authorized
- Reject Project
- Re-Evaluate Project

Project Implementation

Task Assignment Checklist	Project Milestones
• Project Structuring • Finance • Insurance • Procurement	• Execute PPA – 10/31/00 • Permits / Approvals – 3/31/01 • Financial Closing – 5/30/01 • Notice to Proceed – 6/05/01
Activities Under Way	**Last Updated**
• Non-Recourse Debt RFP Response Received • Engineering / Design RFP Out	• 31 August 2000

Fig. 18I



Directory

- iwBusiness
  - Project Dashboard
  - Finance Profiler
  - Insurance Risk Mgt Profiler
  - Procurement Cycle Profiler
  - Personalize Page
  - Update Profile
  - Import News Feeds
- Data Vault Tour
- Process Flow Guides
- Project Life Cyle Management Tools
- Contact Us
  - Expert Resources
  - iW.com Call Center
- Help
- Return to Homepage

Greenfield Project Process Flow Guide

With All Conditions Precedent Met, Debt Funding Occurs and Gives Rise to Mobilization, Final Engineering, Procurement Release and Start of Construction to Culminate In Testing and Start-Up

Project Implementation

Click on the Arrows for Best Practices Handbooks to Review Project Implementation Checklist and Guides

1. Debt Funding → 2. Mobilization → 3. Engineering → 4. Procurement → 5. Construction → 6. Start-up

- Accept/Proceed to Operations
- Reject Project
- Re-Evaluate Project

Commercial Operation

09660312.091200

Fig. 18J

Task Assignment Checklist

- Project Structuring
- Finance
- Insurance
- Procurement

Activities Under Way

- Non-Recourse Debt RFP Response Received
- Engineering / Design RFP Out

Project Milestones

- Execute PPA – 10/31/00
- Permits / Approvals – 3/31/01
- Financial Closing – 5/30/01
- Notice to Proceed – 6/05/01

Last Updated

- 31 August 2000

Fig 18K

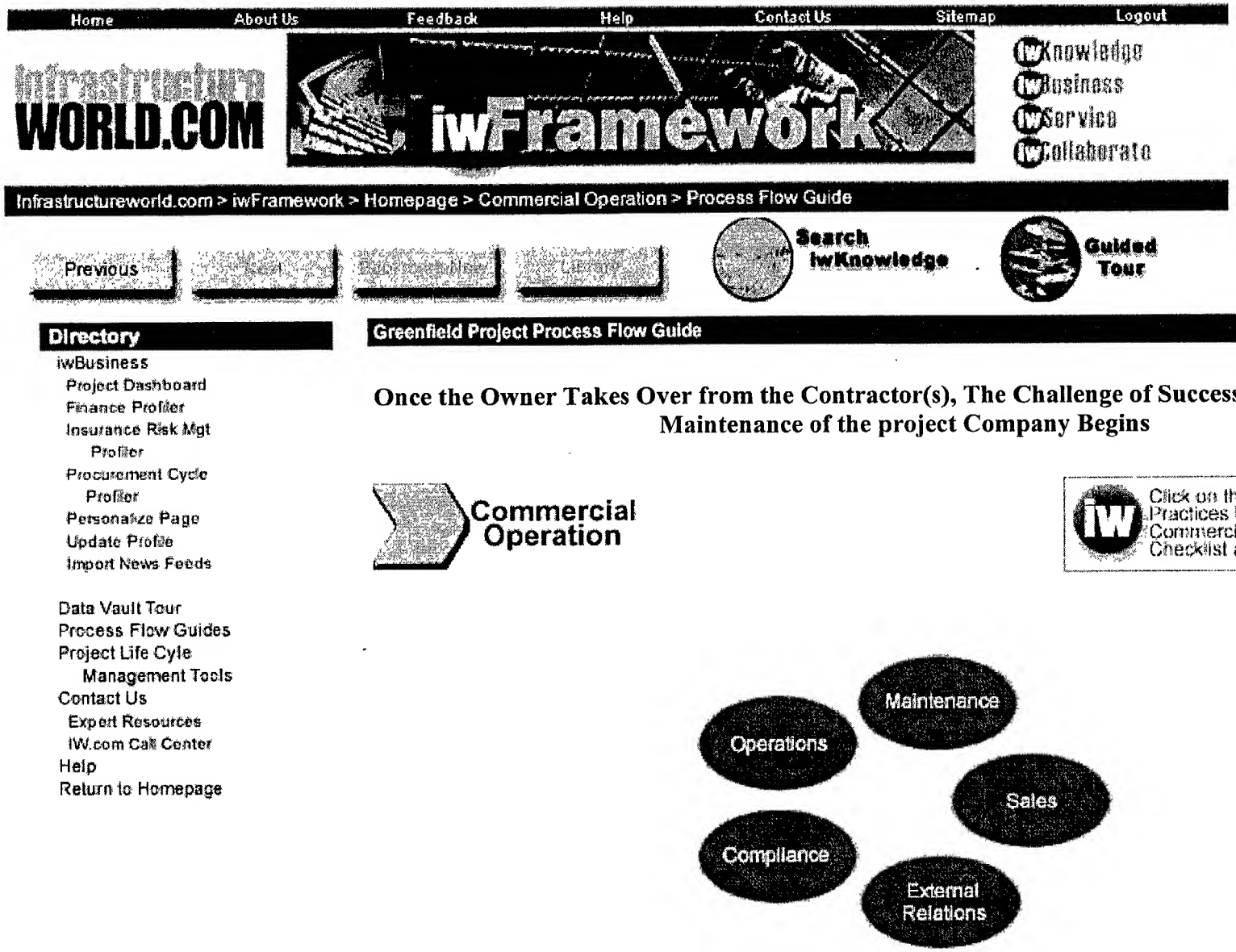
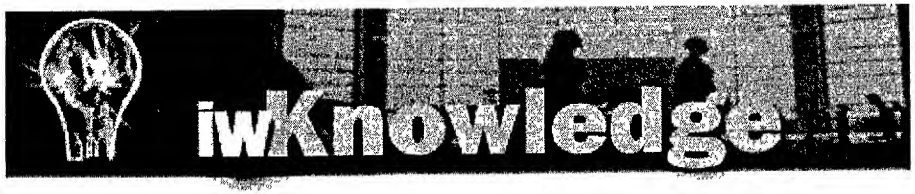


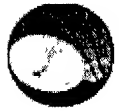
Fig. 18L

Task Assignment Checklist	Project Milestones
• Project Structuring • Finance • Insurance • Procurement	• Execute PPA – 10/31/00 • Permits / Approvals – 3/31/01 • Financial Closing – 5/30/01 • Notice to Proceed – 6/05/01
Activities Under Way	**Last Updated**
• Non-Recourse Debt RFP Response Received • Engineering / Design RFP Out	• 31 August 2000

Fig. 18M



iwFramework
iwBusiness
iwService
iwCollaborate



Directory
iwKnowledge

Electric Power

- Associations & Organizations
- Companies
- Directories & Search Engines
- Engineering, Procurement & Construction
- Equipment Suppliers & Materials
- News & Sector Updates
- Power Pools & Exchanges
- Privatization & Industry Restructuring
- Projects & Bids
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - Federal
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - Multilateral

Select Region and Country

Africa | Asia Pacific | Australasia | Europe | Middle East | North America | Russia and Newly Independent States | South & Central America and Caribbean | South Asia | Worldwide |

0960312 Fig 19A

- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - State
- Sector Overviews
- Standards, Organization & Testing
- Technology

⊞ Energy

⊞ Telecom & Information Technology

⊞ Transportation

⊞ Water

⊞ Engineering, Procurement & Construction

⊞ Equipment Suppliers

⊞ Companies

⊞ Conferences

⊞ Country Data

⊞ Finance

⊞ Insurance & Risk

⊞ Law

⊞ News

⊞ Service Sector

⊞ Research Tools

iwBusiness
iwFramework
iwService
iwCollaborate

Directory
iwKnowledge

- Electric Power
  - Associations & Organizations
  - **Companies**
    - IPPs and Developers
    - Municipalities & Cooperatives
    - Utilities - Investor & State Owned
  - Directories & Search Engines
  - Engineering, Procurement & Construction
  - Equipment Suppliers & Materials
  - News & Sector Updates
  - Power Pools & Exchanges
  - Privatization & Industry Restructuring

Select Region and Country

Africa | Asia Pacific | Australasia | Europe | Middle East | North America | Russia and Newly Independent States | South & Central America and Caribbean | South Asia | Worldwide |

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Displaying 1-10 of 1285

1. 1st Rochdale Cooperative Group
   1st Rochdale Cooperative NYC is a consumer-owned, not-for-profit energy and telecommunications cooperative. We are rooted in th...
   properties
2. ABB USA
   ABB in the United States, part of ABB Group, the global technology company, is a company finding new ways to improve industrial ...
   Courtesy: HomePage | properties
3. ACTEW Corporation
   ACTEW Corporation supplies essential energy, water and wastewater services to the Australian Capital Territory, Australia.,
   properties
4. Ada Public Utilities
   Because the city has its own municipal utilities, it is able to maintain electrical usage rate among the lowest in the State of ...
   Courtesy: HomePage | properties
5. Adams Electric Cooperative
   Adams Electric is a non-profit, member-owned electric utility serving 26,000 homes, farms and businesses in Adams, Cumberland, F...
   properties
6. Admin Nacional de Usinas y Transmisiones Elec (UTE)
   properties

09660312 .091200

Fig. 19C

- Projects & Bids
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - Federal
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - Multilateral
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - State
- Sector Overviews
- Standards, Organization & Testing
- Technology

⊞ Energy

⊞ Telecom & Information Technology

⊞ Transportation

⊞ Water

⊞ Engineering, Procurement & Construction

⊞ Equipment Suppliers

⊞ Companies

⊞ Conferences

⊞ Country Data

⊞ Finance

⊞ Insurance & Risk

⊞ Law

⊞ News

⊞ Service Sector

⊞ Research Tools

7. Advance Energy
   Advance Energy.,
   properties

8. AEK Gruppe Solothurn (language skills required)
   AEK-Gruppe 4502 Solothurn Die AEK-Gruppe Wir wnen Tag! E-Mail: aek@aek.ch BBWH / Futura Graphic, Solothurn
   properties

9. Aem
   Aem - Home Page Frameset
   properties

10. AES
    The AES Corporation, founded in 1981, is the world's largest global power company. The Company is dedicated to supplying safe, c...
    properties

Displaying 1-10 of 1285

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

top

Directory
iwKnowledge

- Electric Power
  - Associations & Organizations
  - Companies
  - Directories & Search Engines
  - **Engineering, Procurement & Construction**
    - Buildings, Transportation, Water & Manufacturing
    - Construction Equipment
    - Design & Management
    - Design, Engineering, Procurement & Construction Companies
    - Inspection & Expediting
    - Maintenance & Operations
    - Specialty Contractors

Select Region and Country

Africa | Asia Pacific | Australasia | Europe | Middle East | North America | Russia and Newly Independent States | South & Central America and Caribbean | South Asia | Worldwide |

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Displaying 1-10 of 615

1. ABB
   ABB is a global $30-billion engineering and technology company serving customers in electrical power generation, transmission an...
   properties
2. ABENGOA S.A.
   ABENGOA ABENGOA is a solid industrial group with highly specialised companies evolving from the integral services market. Their...
   Courtesy: HomePage | properties
3. Acciona, S.A.
   For years ACCIONA's policy has been aimed at participating in new strategic business areas to become one of the top European ind...
   properties
4. Acres International Limited
   Acres International is a leading international consulting engineering, planning and management company of engineers, scientists...
   properties
5. ACS, Actividades de Construccion y Servicios, S.A.
   Turning the rains on the plains of Spain into electricity has provided the current for growth at ACS Actividades de Construccion...
   properties
6. AD Group

Fig. 19E

- Equipment Suppliers & Materials
- News & Sector Updates
- Power Pools & Exchanges
- Privatization & Industry Restructuring
- Projects & Bids
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - Federal
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - Multilateral
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - State
- Sector Overviews
- Standards, Organization & Testing
- Technology

⊞ Energy

⊞ Telecom & Information Technology

⊞ Transportation

⊞ Water

⊞ Engineering, Procurement & Construction

⊞ Equipment Suppliers

⊞ Companies

⊞ Conferences

⊞ Country Data

⊞ Finance

⊞ Insurance & Risk

⊞ Law

⊞ News

⊞ Service Sector

The AD Group is one of the leading general contractors of Turkey, having expertise in all phases of the EPC industry, specializi...

properties

7. Adolf Lupp GmbH + Co. KG, Nidda, Germany
.This company is working in road construction, carrying out underground works for public employers and implementing cable trenc...

properties

8. AEC Engineering
aec engineering, engineering, inspecting, engineers, inspectors, engineer, inspect, coatings, coating, tanks, stacks, bins, silo...

properties

9. AGRA
AGRA Inc. is one of North America's largest international engineering, construction, environmental & technology companies. On Ap...

properties

10. AHMAD NASSIR ALBINALI & SONS CO
Firm specializes in industrial, civil and telecommunications.

properties

Displaying 1-10 of 615

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

top

Fig. 19F

Directory
iwKnowledge

Electric Power

- Associations & Organizations
- Companies
- Directories & Search Engines
- Engineering, Procurement & Construction
- **Equipment Suppliers & Materials**
  - Electric Power, Turbine & Other Equipment Suppliers
- News & Sector Updates
- Power Pools & Exchanges
- Privatization & Industry Restructuring
- Projects & Bids
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - Federal

Select Region and Country

Africa | Asia Pacific | Australasia | Europe | Middle East | North America | Russia and Newly Independent States | South & Central America and Caribbean | South Asia | Worldwide |

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Displaying 1-10 of 379

1. Aalborg Boilers A/S
   Aalborg Boilers Aalborg Boilers is an energy engineering and boiler production company specialised in development, design, manu...
   Courtesy: HomePage | properties
2. Aalborg Industries, Inc.
   Supplier of marine boiler systems, thermal fluid heaters, economisers, heat exchangers and inert gas systems. Industrial oil/gas...
   properties
3. ABB Alstom Power
   ABB ALSTOM POWER - Homepage A World Leader in Power Generation. A new force in Energy providing our customers with comprehensiv...
   properties
4. ABB Automation
   ABB serves customers in power transmission and power distribution; automation; oil, gas and petrochemicals; building technologie...
   properties
5. ABB Turbinen Nürnberg GmbH
   ABB Turbinen ABB Turbinen Nrnberg are suppliers of the state-of-the-art environment-friendly power plant technology and compone...
   Courtesy: HomePage | properties
6. ABB Turbo Systems

09660312 .091200

Fig. 19G

- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - Multilateral
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - State
- Sector Overviews
- Standards, Organization & Testing
- Technology

⊞ Energy

⊞ Telecom & Information Technology

⊞ Transportation

⊞ Water

⊞ Engineering, Procurement & Construction

⊞ Equipment Suppliers

⊞ Companies

⊞ Conferences

⊞ Country Data

⊞ Finance

⊞ Insurance & Risk

⊞ Law

⊞ News

⊞ Service Sector

⊞ Research Tools

iwBusiness
iwFramework
iwService
iwCollaborate

ABB Automation provides control, measurement and analytical products and solutions for process and manufacturing industries.,

properties

7. ABCO Industries, Inc.

properties

8. Advanced Alternatives Energy Corp
AAEC is dedicated to empowering humanity, to maintain its environmental sustainability, through global networking on the Interne...

properties

9. Advanced Hydropower Turbine Systems
The objectives of the DOE Advanced Hydropower Turbine System (AHTS) Program are to design, develop, build, and test one or more ...

Courtesy: HomePage | properties

10. Ahlstrom
Ahlstrom is a privately owned global paper, packaging and technology group. Its net sales totaled EUR 2,164 million in 1999 and ...

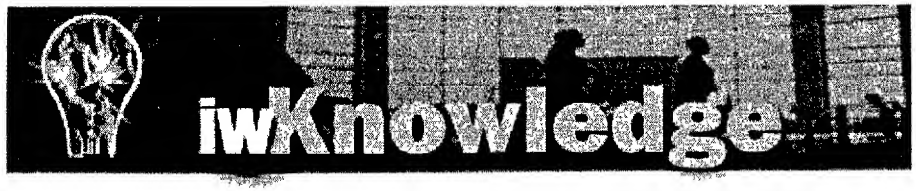
properties

Displaying 1-10 of 379

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

top

Fig. 19H



Directory
iwKnowledge
- Electric Power
- Energy
- Telecom & Information Technology
- Transportation
- Water
- Engineering, Procurement & Construction
- Equipment Suppliers
- **Companies**
  - Conference Companies
  - Consulting
  - Directories & Search Engines
  - Electric Power
  - Energy
  - Engineering, Procurement & Construction

Select Region and Country

Africa | Asia Pacific | Australasia | Europe | Middle East | North America | Russia and Newly Independent States | South & Central America and Caribbean | South Asia | Worldwide |

- Equipment Suppliers
- Exchanges
- Finance
- Insurance & Risk
- Law Firms
- Telecom & Information Technology
- Transportation
- Water

⊞ Conferences

⊞ Country Data

⊞ Finance

⊞ Insurance & Risk

⊞ Law

⊞ News

⊞ Service Sector

⊞ Research Tools

iwBusiness
iwFramework
iwService
iwCollaborate

Sponsors

BECHTEL IFC

Fig. 19J

Directory
iwKnowledge

- Electric Power
- Energy
- Telecom & Information Technology
- Transportation
- Water
- Engineering, Procurement & Construction
- Equipment Suppliers
- Companies
- Conferences
- **Country Data**
  - Associations & Organizations
  - Country Lists
  - Country Profiles
  - Directories & Search Engines

Select Region and Country

Africa | Asia Pacific | Australasia | Europe | Middle East | North America | Russia and Newly Independent States | South & Central America and Caribbean | South Asia | Worldwide |

Fig. 19K

- Embassy Information
- Industry Sector Studies
- Ministries & Government Agencies
- Multilateral Organizations
- Politics
- Privatization & Sector Restructuring
- Taxes & Duties
- Treaties

⊞ Finance

⊞ Insurance & Risk

⊞ Law

⊞ News

⊞ Service Sector

⊞ Research Tools

IW Business
IW Framework
IW Service
IW Collaborate

Sponsors

BECHTEL IFC

Last Updated: 08/25/2000

InfrastructureWorld.com Inc.
400 Oyster Point Blvd, Suite 112
South San Francisco, CA 94080
Tel: +1 (650) 624-0600
Fax: +1 (650) 624-7808

09660312 .091200

Fig. 19L

Directory
iwKnowledge

- Electric Power
- Energy
- Telecom & Information Technology
- Transportation
- Water
- Engineering, Procurement & Construction
- Equipment Suppliers
- Companies
- Conferences
- **Country Data**
  - Associations & Organizations
  - Country Lists
  - Country Profiles
  - Directories & Search Engines

Select Region and Country

Africa | Asia Pacific | Australasia | Europe | Middle East | North America | Russia and Newly Independent States | South & Central America and Caribbean | South Asia | Worldwide |

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Displaying 1-10 of 500

1. A defence of the expectations theory as a model of us long-term interest rates, January 2000
   A DEFENCE OF THE EXPECTATIONS THEORY AS A MODEL OF US LONG-TERM INTEREST RATES Working Papers Working paper No. 85 A DEFENCE OF...
   Courtesy: HomePage | properties
2. A multi-country comparison of the linkages between inflation and exchange rate competitiveness, August 1997
   A MULTI-COUNTRY COMPARISON OF THE LINKAGES BETWEEN INFLATION AND EXCHANGE RATE COMPETITIVENESS Working Papers Working paper No....
   Courtesy: HomePage | properties
3. A new capital adequacy framework, (E), June 1999
   A NEW CAPITAL ADEQUACY FRAMEWORK Basel Committee on Banking Supervision A NEW CAPITAL ADEQUACY FRAMEWORK Executive Summary 1. ...
   Courtesy: HomePage | properties
4. A New Capital Adequacy Framework: Pillar 3 - Market Discipline,
   A New Capital Adequacy Framework: Pillar 3 - Market Discipline Basel Committee on Banking Supervision A New Capital Adequacy Fr...
   Courtesy: HomePage | properties
5. A note on alternative measures of real bond rates, November 1999
   A NOTE ON ALTERNATIVE MEASURES OF REAL BOND RATES Working Papers Working paper No. 80 A NOTE ON ALTERNATIVE MEASURES OF REAL BO...
   Courtesy: HomePage | properties
6. A note on the Gordon growth model with nonstationary dividend growth, August 1999

- Embassy Information
- **Industry Sector Studies**
- Ministries & Government Agencies
- Multilateral Organizations
- Politics
- Privatization & Sector Restructuring
- Taxes & Duties
- Treaties

⊞ Finance
⊞ Insurance & Risk
⊞ Law
⊞ News
⊞ Service Sector
⊞ Research Tools

A NOTE ON THE GORDON GROWTH MODEL WITH NONSTATIONARY DIVIDEND GROWTH Working Papers Working paper No. 75 A NOTE ON THE GORDON G...

Courtesy: HomePage | properties

7. A Review of Financial Market Events in Autumn 1998,(E), October 1999
   A Review of Financial Market Events in Autumn 1998 Committee on the Global Financial System A Review of Financial Market Events...
   Courtesy: HomePage | properties
8. A.M. Best
   A.M. Best s extensive portfolio of more than 50 insurance products and services keeps professionals from around the globe up ...
   Courtesy: HomePage | properties
9. A.M. Best Rating Definitions
   A.M. Best Co., established in 1899, is America s oldest and most widely recognized insurance rating and information source.,
   Courtesy: HomePage | properties
10. African Power Industry
    MBendi - African Power Industry African Power Industry Industry Profile Search Functions Related Country Information Overview P...
    Courtesy: HomePage | properties

Displaying 1-10 of 500

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

top

IW Business
IW Framework
IW Service
IW Collaborate

InfrastructureWorld.com Inc.
400 Oyster Point Blvd, Suite 112
South San Francisco, CA 94080
Tel: +1 (650) 624-0600
Fax: +1 (650) 624-7808

Directory
iwKnowledge

- Electric Power
- Energy
- Telecom & Information Technology
- Transportation
- Water
- Engineering, Procurement & Construction
- Equipment Suppliers
- **Companies**
  - Conference Companies
  - Consulting
  - Directories & Search Engines
  - Electric Power
  - Energy
  - Engineering, Procurement & Construction

Select Region and Country

Africa | Asia Pacific | Australasia | Europe | Middle East | North America | Russia and Newly Independent States | South & Central America and Caribbean | South Asia | Worldwide |

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Displaying 1-10 of 411

1. 164 Currency Converter by OANDA :
   The most powerful Currency Converter on the Internet. Easy conversion among 164 currencies. Also available in German and French....
   Courtesy: HomePage | properties
2. 1Point Commerce - Global ECommerce Solution
   1Point Commerce's mission is to proactively support our business members, companies and traders, helping them to Compete Locally...
   properties
3. A and G International Cargo
   FREIGHT FORWARDER AIR AND SEA, From Hong Kong and China to anywhere in the world. TRANSITAIRE HONG KONGAIS, TRANSPORTS MARITIME...
   Courtesy: HomePage | properties
4. ACE(Asias first Online marketplace for buying and selling international telecoms capacity)
   The Asia Capacity Exchange (ACE) is the first Asian-based online marketplace for trading telecommunications capacity. Traders pl...
   properties
5. ACN Energy
   ACN Energy is offering electric power and natural gas services to residential and small business customers as well as to commerc...
   properties
6. Agencias Navieras B&R

Fig. 190

- Equipment Suppliers
- **Exchanges**
  - Bandwidth Trading & Exchanges
  - Currency Trading
  - Customs Brokers
  - Derivatives, Futures & Options
  - Emissions Trading
  - Equipment Exchanges
  - Freight Forwarding & Expediting
  - Fuel Trading & Exchanges
  - Insurance
  - ISOs & Pools
  - Power Marketing, Trading & Exchange
  - Procurement Exchanges
  - Risk
  - Ship Schedules
  - Supply Chain Integrators
  - Transportation Exchanges
  - Transportation Insurance
  - Water Trading & Exchanges
- Finance
- Insurance & Risk
- Law Firms
- Telecom & Information Technology
- Transportation

Grupo BR Homepage Frames | No Frames | Text Only | Spanish | BR Telephone Directory | E-mail The flagship company of the large...

properties

7. Allegheny Power
   Pa Retail Access Pilot Program The files provided are in Adobe Acrobat Format To view them you will need to download the Acroba...

   Courtesy: HomePage | properties

8. Allegheny Power
   Allegheny Energy, Inc. (NYSE: AYE), incorporated in Maryland in 1925, is an electric utility holding company that derives substa...

   properties

9. Altra Energy Technologies, Inc
   Altra Energy Technologies, Inc. along with its subsidiaries, is the leading provider of business-to-business e-commerce products...

   properties

10. AmerenEnergy
    AmerenEnergy Brings Powerful Energy Innovation. AmerenEnergy, an independent, national trading and marketing subsidiary of Amere...

    properties

Displaying 1-10 of 411

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

top

- Water

⊞ Conferences

⊞ Country Data

⊞ Finance

⊞ Insurance & Risk

⊞ Law

⊞ News

⊞ Service Sector

⊞ Research Tools

IW Business
IW Framework
IW Service
IW Collaborate

Sponsors

Last Updated: 08/25/2000

InfrastructureWorld.com Inc.
400 Oyster Point Blvd, Suite 112
South San Francisco, CA 94080
Tel: +1 (650) 624-0600
Fax: +1 (650) 624-7808

Fig. 19Q

Directory
iwKnowledge

- Electric Power
  - Associations & Organizations
  - Companies
    - IPPs and Developers
    - Municipalities & Cooperatives
    - **Utilities - Investor & State Owned**
  - Directories & Search Engines
  - Engineering, Procurement & Construction
  - Equipment Suppliers & Materials
  - News & Sector Updates
  - Power Pools & Exchanges
  - Privatization & Industry Restructuring

Select Region and Country

Western Europe | Worldwide |
Andorra | Austria | Belgium | Cyprus | Denmark | Faroe Islands | Finland | France | France, Metropolitan | Germany | Gibraltar | Greece | Holy See | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Netherlands | Norway | Portugal | San Marino | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | Turkey | United Kingdom |

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Displaying 1-10 of 270

1. AEK Gruppe Solothurn (language skills required)
   AEK-Gruppe 4502 Solothurn Die AEK-Gruppe Wir wnen Tag! E-Mail: aek@aek.ch BBWH / Futura Graphic, Solothurn
   properties
2. Aem
   Aem - Home Page Frameset
   properties
3. AEW Energie AG
   AEW Aargauisches Elektrizitätswerk
   properties
4. Angelholms Energi AB
   properties
5. Austria Burgenlandische Elektrizitatswirtschafts AG (BEWAG)
   Die t?iche Energie Burgenl?ische Elektrizit?wirtschafts-Aktiengesellschaft (BEWAG) INFO ++++ Beste Ansicht mit Netscape Navigat...
   properties
6. AVV I/S
   AVV I/S - Affaldsselskab i Vendsyssel med totalløsninger for affald

Fig. 19A

- Projects & Bids
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - Federal
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - Multilateral
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - State
- Sector Overviews
- Standards, Organization & Testing
- Technology

⊞ Energy
⊞ Telecom & Information Technology
⊞ Transportation
⊞ Water
⊞ Engineering, Procurement & Construction
⊞ Equipment Suppliers
⊞ Companies
⊞ Conferences
⊞ Country Data
⊞ Finance
⊞ Insurance & Risk
⊞ Law
⊞ News
⊞ Service Sector
⊞ Research Tools

IWBusiness
IWFramework
IWService

properties

7. Azienda Elettrica Ticinese
   AET - Homepage Frameset

Courtesy: HomePage | properties

8. Azienda Energetica Consorziale-Etschwerke (AEC-EW)

properties

9. Bayernwerk
   Willkommen auf den Internet-Seiten der Bayernwerk AG! Hier finden Sie alles ?as Thema Energie und unsere Preismodelle.

properties

10. Belgium Electrabel SA
    Electrabel not only provides electricity; we also supply natural gas, steam, cable TV, and drinking water.

properties

Displaying 1-10 of 270

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

top

Fig. 19S

Directory
iwKnowledge

Select Region and Country

Worldwide

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Displaying 1-10 of 24

1. East Midlands Electricity
   Frameset,
   properties
2. Eastern Group
   TXU, Texas Utilities, TU, Lone Star Gas, electric, utility, Texas
   properties
3. Electricity Association
   properties
4. Independent Energy UK Limited
   Independent Energy is one of a new generation of energy suppliers, established to compete in the deregulated UK energy market.
   properties
5. London Electricity
   London Electricity supplies gas and electricity to the UK. R
   properties
6. London Electricity plc
   London Electricity supplies gas and electricity to the UK.
   properties
7. Manweb
   About Manweb Manweb is a ScottishPower company. The Manweb area covers 12,200 square kilometres in Merseyside.

Fig. 19T

- Projects & Bids
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - Federal
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - Multilateral
- Regulations & Regulatory Agencies - State
- Sector Overviews
- Standards, Organization & Testing
- Technology

⊞ Energy
⊞ Telecom & Information Technology
⊞ Transportation
⊞ Water
⊞ Engineering, Procurement & Construction
⊞ Equipment Suppliers
⊞ Companies
⊞ Conferences
⊞ Country Data
⊞ Finance
⊞ Insurance & Risk
⊞ Law
⊞ News
⊞ Service Sector
⊞ Research Tools

Cheshire and no...

properties

8. Midlands Electricity
meb.co.uk

properties

9. National Grid Co
National Grid

properties

10. National Power
National Power's principal business is the generation and retail of electricity. We build, invest in, own, operate and maintain ...

properties

Displaying 1-10 of 24

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

top

Fig 19L

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.: PA1631US

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **"Method and Apparatus for Business to Business Project Development with Indexed Knowledge Base,"** the specification of which (check one):

|X| is attached hereto.
|___| was filed on_____
as U.S. Application No. _____
or PCT International Application No._____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application, having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year filed)	Yes	No
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year filed)	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Number)	(Filing Date)
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

(Application Number)	(Filing Date)	(Status -- patented, pending, abandoned)
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)	(Status -- patented, pending, abandoned)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Customer Number:

22830

PATENT _TRADEMARK OFFICE

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Customer Number:

22830

PATENT _TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first inventor: David J. Goerz, Jr.

Inventor's signature David J Goerz Jr. Dated: 9/12/00

Residence 11Shasta Lane, Menlo Park, California 94025, San Manteo County

Post Office Address Same as above Citizenship USA

Full name of inventor: Cordell William Hull

Inventor's signature Cordell W. Hull Dated: 12 Sept 2000

Residence 122 Tuscaloosa Ave., Atherton, California 94027, San Mateo County

Post Office Address Same as above Citizenship USA

United States Patent & Trademark Office

Office of Initial Patent Examination -- Scanning Division

Application deficiencies were found during scanning:

☐ Page(s)_____ of _____ were not present for scanning. (Document title)

☐ Page(s)_____ of _____ were not present for scanning. (Document title)

There are 53 sheets of drawings

☐ Scanned copy is best available.